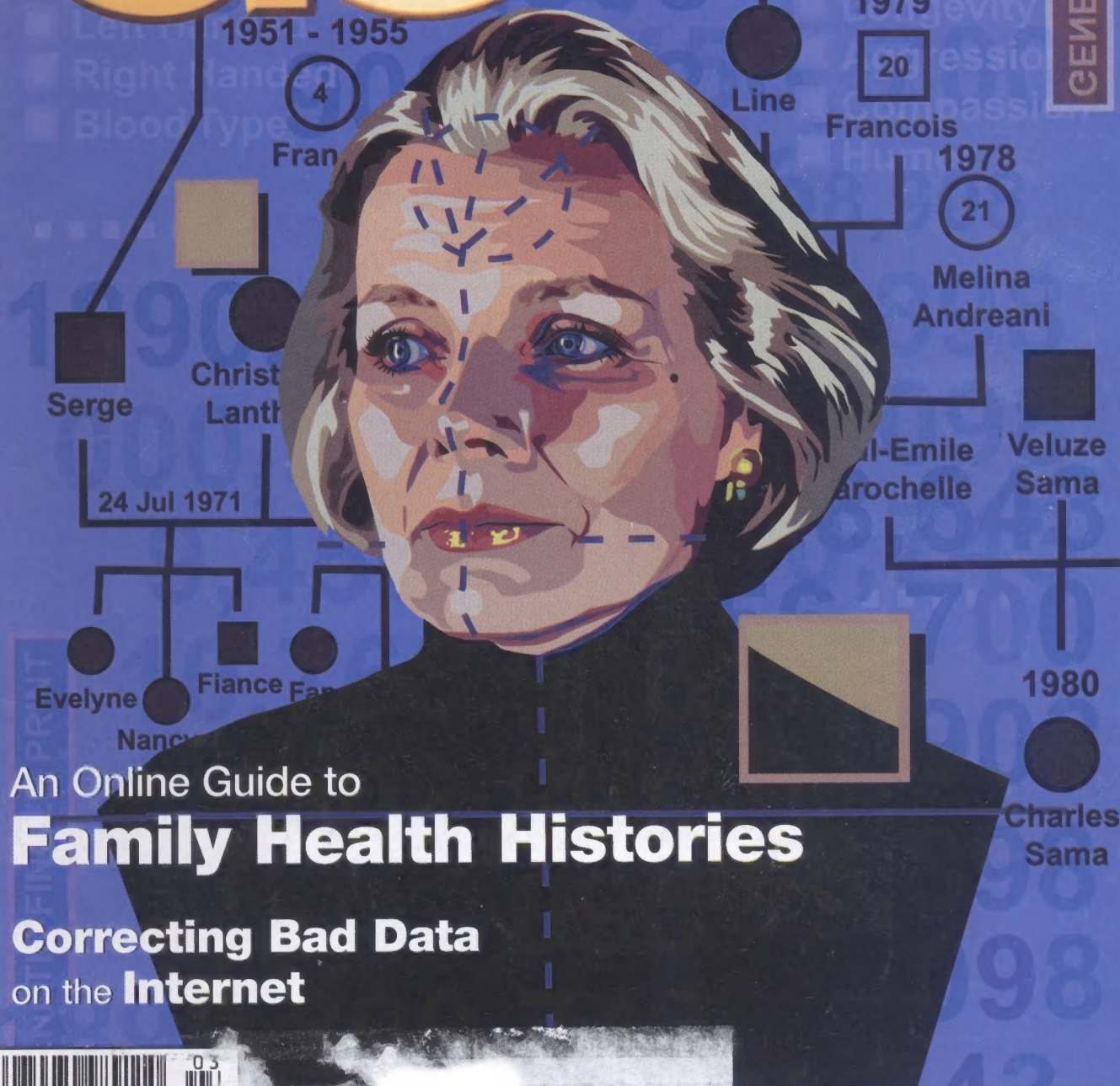


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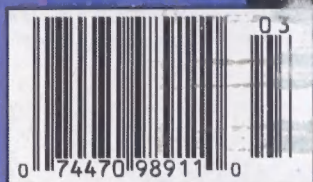
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An Online Guide to

Family Health Histories

Correcting Bad Data
on the Internet



Summer 2001, Vol. 21.1

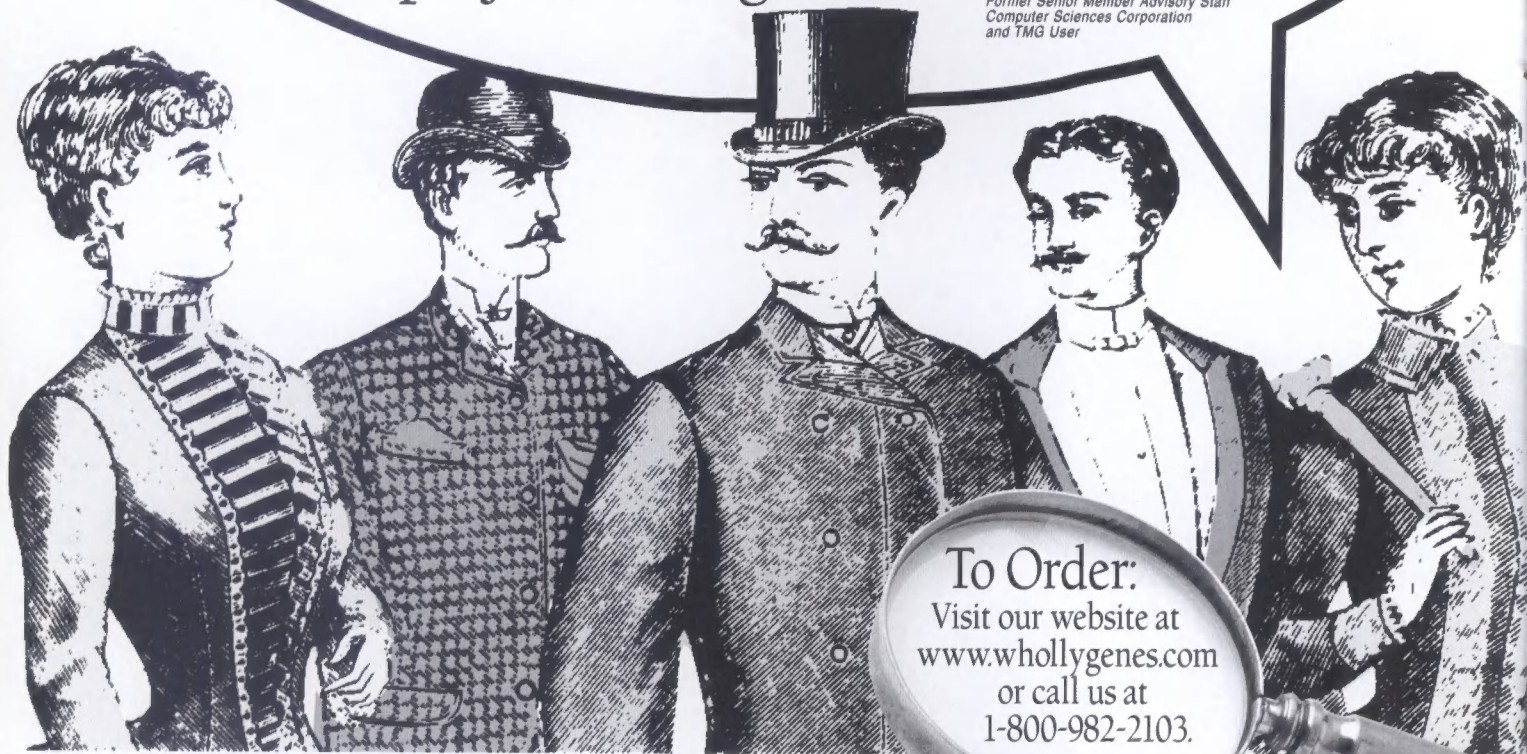
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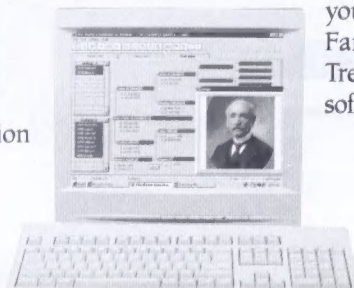
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Cover Illustration by Paulino Sánchez

EDITOR'S FILE

*There's no time like
the present to avoid
lost opportunities.*

Family historians suffer the consequences of lost opportunities. Some bemoan the fact that their interest in family history was only piqued after a relative with all the family secrets died. Others discover their ancestors hailed from a distant location shortly after they visited that location. And yet others watch family treasures being removed or destroyed before they realized their intrinsic value.

I have my own such lost opportunities. When my interest in genealogy was just budding, my mother and I interviewed my grandmother and asked her questions about her ancestry. I had that interview on an audiocassette. I wrote down the pertinent details from the interview. Several years later, when my interest in genealogy had waned, I needed an audio tape for some music and taped over my grandmother's interview thinking it wasn't that important. My grandmother has since passed away and, while I have the gist of the interview in notes, I've lost her voice forever.

In another instance, I have been trying for years to discover where in Ireland my Presley ancestors originated. All I knew was that they were from the north, so on my week-long research trip to Belfast last year, I picked a county (Down) and started collecting the Presleys/Priestleys from there. About two months ago, I finally obtained the proof I had been seeking about their origins—the Presleys were from Belfast! It never occurred to me while I was there to research right in that city.

Similarly, several years after my great-grandmother died, my great-aunt called in the junk man to haul away the contents of the house, which included antiques, painted portraits, and likely family papers. This type of genealogical tragedy happens every day all over the country.

In this issue's Bits & Bytes column, Candace Doriott discusses other lost opportunities and

suggests that we should try to capture the moment while we have the chance. Similarly, interviewing relatives about their health history should be a top priority on our to-do lists. In the lead article, Barbara Krasner-Khait explores options for discovering and recording your family health history. Pat Hatcher details the opportunities descendants of one ancestral line lose to correct bad data perpetuated on the Internet.

Manipulating data to see trends and research possibilities is a common occurrence among technogenies. In this issue, Amy Crow tests the timeline capabilities in several popular genealogy programs, while Dick Robinson examines creating databases to suit your data needs. Bill Mumford explains the GEN-TECH Testbook Project and some results of GEDCOM imports into various genealogy software programs. And Drew Smith, in his Cybrarian column, helps us organize the files on our computer so we can keep manipulating that data.

We wouldn't be *GC* if we didn't include a number of product reviews. In this issue, Jim Slade reviews voice recognition software in the Laboratory of Life column, Betty Clay reviews *Parentèle*, and Barbara Renick reviews the latest version of *Personal Ancestral File*. Several data CDs, two books, and a video round out the review section for this summer.

It's my hope that once you finish reading *GC* from cover to cover, you'll ponder the opportunities you need to explore when the circumstances are ripe. Remember, there's no time like the present to avoid lost opportunities. **GC**

Elizabeth Kelley-Kersten

Managing Editor

Note: For those of you who can't get enough of *GC*, join me online each Thursday for my column *GC Extra*.




www.ancestry.com/library/view/columns/extra/extra.asp

Ancestry Announces

Ancestry.com & RootsWeb.com Launch New Message Boards

Ancestry.com and RootsWeb.com recently launched an updated version of the popular genealogical message boards that users had been accessing on RootsWeb.com, Ancestry.com, and FamilyHistory.com. The new system no longer requires users to post messages on multiple sites, and allows queries, dis-

cussions, and helpful suggestions from the genealogical community to receive the widest possible audience. In fact, the new message boards database is by far the largest collection of such messages on the Internet. Users may choose to access these new message boards on either RootsWeb.com or Ancestry.com as they prefer. Message board access will remain free. 

Genealogy News

1880 U.S. Census and Index Available on CD-ROM

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has released the 1880 U.S. Census on CD-ROM, a major research tool for family history enthusiasts. The new database is the largest census to be automated to date. It is the culmination of 17 years and 11.5 million hours of work and encompasses 56 CDs.

By simply entering an ancestor's name, users can quickly search the 50,475,366 inhabitants of the 38 states and eight territories of the United States as they existed in June 1880 to discover the whereabouts and other detailed information regarding their relatives.

Manually finding an ancestor's entry in the 1880 census was an ominous task until the release of this new searchable database. In order to find a person, researchers had to know where an individual lived at the time. Without knowing an ancestor's place of residence, family history researchers were mostly unsuccessful in their attempts to find an individual's census listing.

As with any project of this magnitude, the census data presented many challenges to those preparing it for automated publication. To ensure the integrity of

the original content, the Church received assistance from the Minnesota Population Center of the University of Minnesota.

The new product (all 56 CDs) can be used free of charge at most of the Church's 3,500 family history centers, or it can be purchased for \$49 on the



www.familysearch.org

Internet or through the Church's distribution centers worldwide at (800) 537-5971, item 50168. The price includes shipping and handling. For more information, visit the FamilySearch Web site.

Genelines Timeline Charting Software PAF 5.0 Compatible

Progeny Software, Inc., has released a PAF 5.0-compatible version of its genealogy charting software *Genelines*. Using *Genelines*, genealogy enthusiasts can display full-color, historical timeline charts that tell their family story in a completely different way. With this new version 1.3 release, *Genelines* can now directly read family history files created in PAF version 3.0-5.0, *Family Tree Maker* versions 4.0 and up, and GEDCOM files created using other genealogy programs. This new version is available

The new message boards database at RootsWeb.com and Ancestry.com is by far the largest collection of such messages on the Internet.

free to registered *Genelines* users and can be downloaded online. New users may purchase *Genelines* 1.3 for \$29.95 (plus shipping) from Progeny Software online or by calling (800) 565-0018.



www.progenysoftware.com

Generations Software Now Available on DVD

Sierra Home has released the first genealogy program available on DVD. *Generations Deluxe* DVD gives you full access to the whole *Generations* program without constantly changing CDs, and allows you to carry all of your data with you wherever you go. *Generations*

Deluxe DVD gives you customizable and comprehensive charting capabilities while giving you more than 350 million names and resources to search through. It contains a free 3 billion-name search from a professional genealogist, exclusive multimedia tutorials on genealogy research, one free year in the Heritage Quest Research Club, automatic Web authoring, and a Create-a-Family CD wizard to help you store all of your important genealogy information. The DVD version retails for \$49.95 plus shipping. For more information, visit Sierra's Web site. **G**



www.sierrahome.com

Reader Feedback

Census Record Inaccuracies

While reading Elizabeth Powell Crowe's review, "Genealogy.com's Census Access," in the Spring 2001 issue of *GC*, I was struck by the apparent discrepancies in her reading of the online image of the 1900 Federal Census entry for the Timothy C. Pirtle family in Kentucky: "He was the head of the household, white, male, born January 1858, aged 43 in 1900, and age 23 *when he married*" (emphasis added).

We all know information in census records is sometimes inaccurate. Of course, a person born in 1858 would be 41 or 42 in 1900, not 43. Because the illustration with Ms. Crowe's review showed only a small portion of the online census image, I made a full copy of the census page from the NARA microfilm (Twelfth Census...1900: Kentucky, Ohio Co., Town of Cromwell, National Archives Micropublication T634, roll 546, ED 103, p. 16, #290-295). While the year of Timothy's birth shown in the census might be read as 1858, it is clearly 1857. Not only is this year in harmony with an age of 43, but also a comparison with other numbers on the same census page clearly indicates the final digit in the

year is a seven and not an eight.

More importantly, Timothy was not married at age 23. Column 10 of the 1900 Census that Ms. Crowe examined online was for the enumerator to indicate the number of years married for an individual. In Timothy Pirtle's case, he would have been around the age of 20 at his marriage, which also sits better with his son Clarence's birth in 1878.

Ms. Crowe also noted that Timothy Pirtle's "occupation was listed as 'Commercial' something, but I couldn't read the second word." The word on the census copy I made is clearly "Traveler."

As Ms. Crowe points out in her review, "The advantages [of online census images] are obvious: the computer monitor is more convenient than traveling to a regional branch of the National Archives... If the image still isn't legible, at least now you know the exact record, and you can view the microfilm later to try to make sense of it further." Researchers must carefully study the information on the census for possible inconsistencies and discrepancies, and for other numbers and words to which to compare hard-to-read spots. **G**

—Roger D. Joslyn, CG, FASG

Researchers must carefully study the information on the census for possible inconsistencies and discrepancies.

Family Health Histories on the Web

Retired entrepreneur Stanley Diamond had a vision to create a Web-based index of all Jewish vital records of Poland. His vision went beyond the genealogist's typical motivation. Diagnosed as a carrier of a mutated Beta-Thalassemia gene, he was driven to find its genesis. He wanted to identify other potential carriers and warn them about the dangers of the disease.

The project he inspired, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, has now indexed nearly one million Jewish records from more than 170 Polish towns.

"Through the establishment of a searchable database from Poland, careful analysis of the relationship between individuals will be possible at both the familial and the molecular level. This will afford us the opportunity to learn not only more about the Creator's great work, but will also allow researchers new opportunities to dissect the cause of many diseases in large established pedigrees," says Dr. Robert Burk, professor of epidemiology at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine at Yeshiva University, and principal investigator of the Cancer Longevity, Ancestry and Lifestyle (CLAL) study.

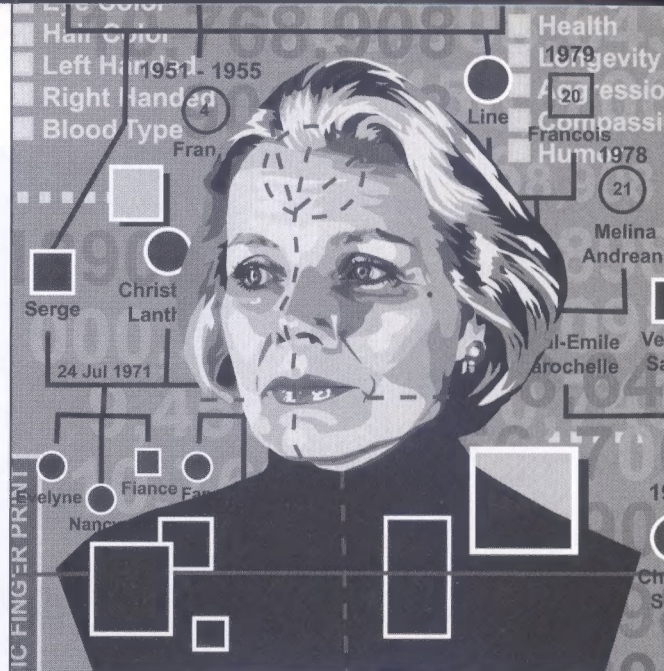
Growing Interest in Health History

Diamond is but one of a growing breed of family historians pursuing medical history. "In the last ten years, a scientific and healthcare revolution has been occurring. New studies and research in genetics, including the Human Genome Project, have made the public more con-

scious of our health. Combine that with the increase in the number of people tracing their family history—there's a need to know what genetics is about and how it relates to your family," says National Genealogical Society (NGS) Family Health and Heredity Committee member and health care educator, Joan Kirchman Mitchell, Ph.D.

The American Medical Association agrees and supports the search for health history with Web-based tools, including a genetic screening questionnaire, a pediatric clinical genetics questionnaire, a sample pedigree, and an adult family history form. It states, "Gathering a complete family history is becoming more important as genetic medicine explains more diseases. As a patient realizes the connection within the family, he or she undoubtedly seeks to gather, perhaps informally, perhaps not, more personal information regarding risk to develop particular diseases." One of its committees is developing a universal family history tool for patients.

Interest in health history is growing as an integral part of genealogical research, evident at genealogical conferences like the NGS Conference in the States, the Federation of Genealogical Societies conferences, and the Annual Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy. For instance, the Family Health History lecture track at the 2000 NGS Conference in the States consisted of five talks, including a panel discussion with members of the NGS Family Health and



By Barbara Krasner-Khait

Gathering a complete family history is becoming more important as genetic medicine explains more diseases.


An increasing number of Web-based sites, tools, and software capabilities can help you learn about and document your medical history.

Heredity Committee.

It's never been easier to trace your family's health history. Legislation like the Health and Human Services Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) ensures that you can access your private medical records, and an increasing number of Web-based sites, tools, and software capabilities can help you learn about and document your medical history.


Web-Based Tools and Sources

National Genealogical Society Family Health and Heredity Committee

 www.ngsgenealogy.org/comfamhealth.htm


This newly redesigned site answers questions about how to begin researching your family's health history, what information you can learn, and where to go for more information.

Human Genome Project

 www.ornl.gov/hgmis/


Get the latest news on the Human Genome Project and link to educational sites and publications. The site also presents some case studies and addresses ethical issues surrounding the Project.

Genograms and Family Histories

 www.genealogy.com/202/lesson2/course2_02.html

This Internet genealogy lesson addresses the importance of family health histories and how to construct a genogram—a graphic depiction, much like a pedigree, of your family's medical history.


Genograms

 www.genogram.org/

This site provides a sample genogram.


Genetic Disorders and Diseases

History of Epidemics

 www.bath.ac.uk/~ma0amgb/epihist.html


A review of this site provides the historical background on family diseases. For instance, my great-aunt died of influenza during the great epidemic of 1918.

National Center for Biotechnology Information

 www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Omim

This database catalogs all known human genes and genetic disorders, providing links to relevant literature.


Glossary of Ancient Diseases, Old Diseases and Their Modern Definitions

 <http://olivetreenealogy.com/misc/disease.shtml>

 www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/2840/diseases.html


Suppose your ancestor's cause of death was listed as dropsy. Access one of these two sites and you'll find out what dropsy actually entailed. The second site will tell you dropsy would be known as congestive heart failure in today's parlance. Descriptions range from abscess to yellow fever.

Genetic and Rare Conditions

 www.kumc.edu/gec/support/

Particularly useful at this site are links to lists of support groups, genetic counselors and geneticists, and medical information.


National Library of Medicine-PubMed

 www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db=PubMed

This site can help you find genetic research articles about a particular condition. They are not intended for the lay person and may be difficult to absorb. However, if you're looking for the latest research on something that afflicts your family, this is the place to go—and it's free (vs. fee-based download services).


Web-based Tools for Compiling Your Family's Health History

Generational Health

 www.generalhealth.com

Pfizer Women's Health developed this educational site that enables you to build a family health history online in a step-by-step approach. Also included are descriptions of several diseases and afflictions like Alzheimer's, breast cancer, high blood pressure, and migraines.

American Medical Association

 www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/2380.html


The AMA offers a Family History Tools Web page, mainly intended for health care professionals, that includes questionnaires and a sample pedigree.

Texas Agricultural Extension Service

 http://fcs.tamu.edu/health/health_record/medrecord_contents.htm

This online Family Health and Medical Record brochure includes worksheets for your personal health history, your spouse's history, and childhood immunizations.


Online Discussion Groups

 www.adata.org/index-other-lists.html

Get answers to your questions and read the latest discussions with these discussion groups.

Instructions for signing up for a variety of groups dealing with specific illnesses and disabilities, including GenDisease-J, a discussion list for individuals concerned with the various genetically-transmitted diseases affecting Jewish populations, though discussions are not limited to Jews.

Google Beta Groups


 <http://groups.google.com>

Google offers seven health-related discussion groups, including AIDS, arthritis, and diabetes. Just click on "miscellaneous" and then "health."



Some Ethnic Sites

Genealogy and Genetics

 www.geocities.com/heartland/pointe/1439


A part of Stanley Diamond's outreach program, Diamond presents a summary of his research, links to other family names carrying the Beta-Thalassemia trait, and links to genetic research articles and sites.

Joslin Diabetes Center—Amish Community

 www.joslin.org/news/shuldiner_amish.html

An article describing the work of Dr. Alan Shuldiner in diabetes among the Amish.

Compiling a Health History for Your Italian Ancestors

 www.daddezio.com/genealogy/research/grs-il1c.html

Presents a how-to article by Laura Heidekrueger with links to other sites, including creating a genogram.

It's never been easier to trace your family's health history.

DNA Services

DNA Identification Systems

<www.dnaisys.com>

Family Tree DNA


<www.familytreedna.com>

Oxford Ancestors

<www.oxfordancestors.com>


Software

Family Tree Maker

 www.familytreemaker.com


From an individual's "More" page, click on Medical Information. The Medical Information Dialog Box enables you to record height, weight, cause of death, and any other medical information. Be sure to use the Source Dialog Box so you can document where you found the information. You can also create a pre-designed Medical Information Report, including an individual's name, birth date, and information from the Medical Information Dialog Box, or you can customize your own report.

Lifelinks International

 www.lifelinks.mb.ca/

Starting out as an educational initiative by the Manitoba Schizophrenia Society, this software package can be used to input family data that can generate a "no names" medical history that includes a relationship report.

Geneweaver

 www.geneweaveronline.com

Good news for the genealogist! Though not yet available, this software program from Genes & Things, Inc., is specifically designed with the family historian in mind. Working with your GEDCOM files, it allows for your personal and your family's health history, including documentation, medical pedigree chart, and genogram. It also includes a


checklist of resources for finding health information, and a list of obsolete disease names.

Cyrillic 3

 www.cyrillicsoftware.com/


Cyrillic 3 from Cherwell Scientific is intended for use by research labs and clinics. It allows genetic counselors and others to draw and edit pedigrees. *Cyrillic 2* allows these professionals to use genetic marker data in their analyses.

Genelines


 www.progenysoftware.com

Genelines features a health category that you can add to your genealogical information. An individual's bar chart will plot his or her health-related events according to a timeline. You can also compare the events of two individuals in a single chart. This would be especially useful if you were monitoring the ages at which family members contracted a particular disease, etc. The program works with GEDCOM.

GenoPro

 www.genopro.com

A free, downloadable package to help the genealogist map out medical information.

While the Web can't provide all the primary sources to compile your family's health history, it can provide you with tools to make sense of your family's background in a way that will be helpful to your family and your medical professional. 

Barbara Krasner-Khait's articles about genealogy and genetics have appeared in Ancestry, Family Chronicle, Family Tree, and Heritage Quest. She is the author of Discovering Your Jewish Ancestors (Heritage Quest, Spring 2001). Barbara can be reached by e-mail at bkhait@aol.com.

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DNA Testing

A hot topic in genealogy of late is DNA testing. Says columnist Dick Eastman of the Federation of Genealogical Societies 2000 conference, "No less than three vendors were in attendance to publicize services related to DNA testing and other genetics-related topics... DNA has the potential to revolutionize genealogy research in much the same manner as the computer revolution of the past fifteen years."

On 6 March 2000, Brigham Young University's Molecular Genealogy Research Group embarked on a project to collect



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On 6 March 2000, Brigham Young University's Molecular Genealogy Research Group embarked on a project to collect 100,000 DNA samples from 400 major populations over a four-year period to determine the genetic composition of major populations throughout the world; reconstruct genealogies using genetic information which can help genealogists break through brick walls; establish genotype links in each population and between populations, helpful to determine ancient immigration and migration patterns and link families to their ancestral origins; produce unique identifications for peoples who don't have traditional, name-based genealogies; and preserve an individual's and a family's genetic heritage for future generations, helpful to the genealogist and the medical community.

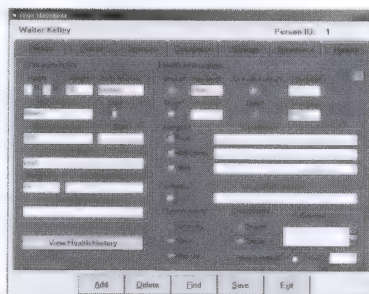
As of mid-April 2001, the project has collected close to 21,000 samples. For more information on the project and how to participate, visit the BYU Molecular Genealogy web site.

 <http://molecular-genealogy.byu.edu>



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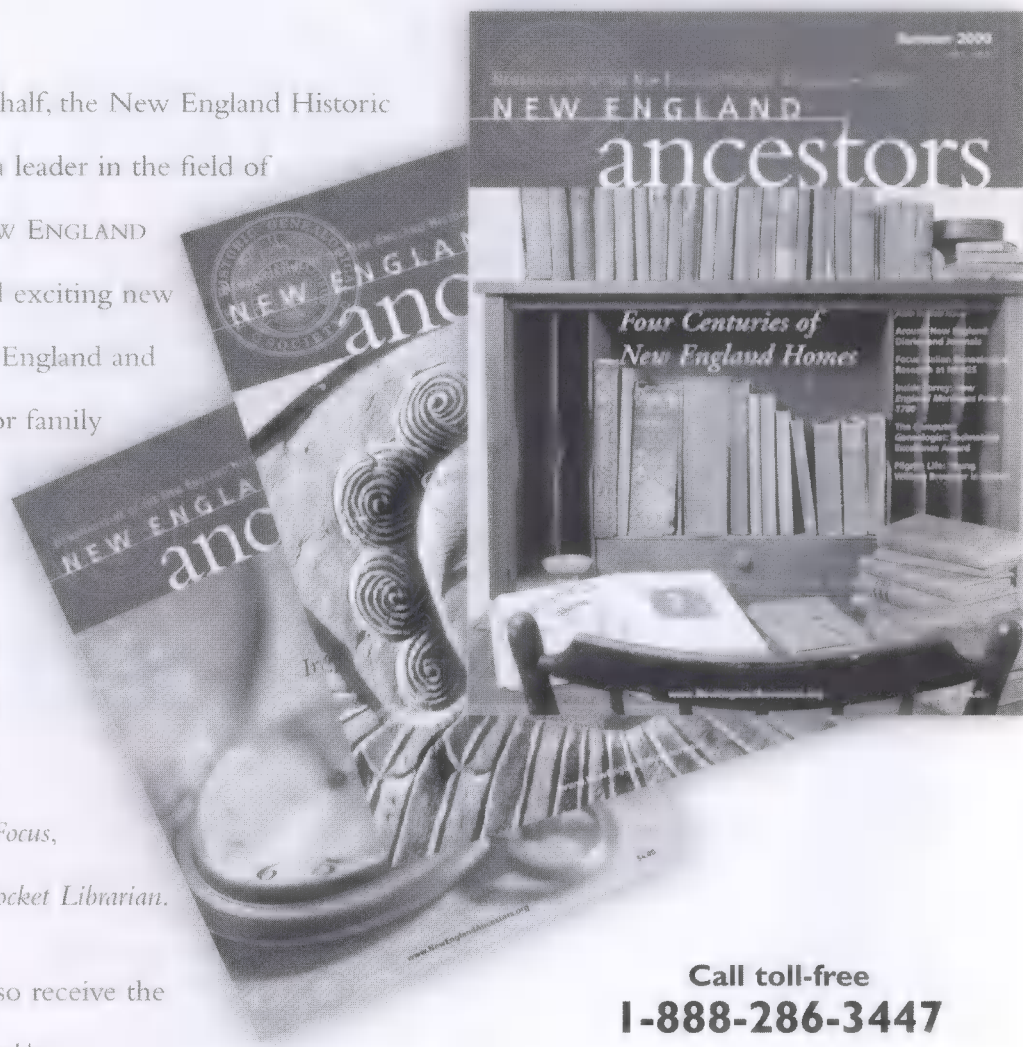
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Using Timelines to Re-evaluate Data

Family historians are accustomed to using charts and forms to organize their research. Ancestor charts, family group sheets, Ahnentafel charts, and descendant lists are standard tools of the trade. Genealogists use software programs to create these charts, with many programs offering a wide range of formatting options.

Among the options that many programs offer is a timeline. There are even separate add-on programs that will take the data and convert it into a timeline format. While not as commonly used as an ancestor chart or a family group sheet, a timeline can be an excellent tool.

What is a Timeline?

A timeline is a chart that graphically shows events over a period of time. Depending on the type of timeline that is generated, these events may be for an individual, a family, or several generations. Some timelines show personal events in comparison with another person (or persons), such as birth and death. Others compare a person's life against a backdrop of historical events.

The usefulness of a timeline may not be immediately apparent. After all, genealogists are familiar with reading ancestor charts and family group sheets. While they can be compared to the lives of two people, they may not be the best charts to use if several people are being compared or if the people are not related. Details can be overlooked in the lines of text on a family group sheet, but a timeline—with its colors and bars—literally diagrams a person's life.

The graphical format of a timeline, as opposed to traditional text-based charts,

can be an aid to research and analysis. Suddenly, it can be very obvious that a mother was over 50 years

old when her last child was born or that there was a ten-year span between the births of two children. Both of these items should be clues for further research. Was the last child actually a grandchild? In those ten years, was there a child who died in infancy? The different format of a timeline can make these details more obvious.

Some programs allow users to add historical events to a timeline, which can give clues for further research. They can also give historical context to the family by allowing the researcher to add events that were happening around the family. It is very easy to be overwhelmed with historical events. Careful researchers will include only those events that affected the family. If the family was living in the United States during the Civil War, it would be hard for them not to be affected.

As with other charts, every genealogical program handles timelines differently. Let's take a look at some popular programs and see how they handle this useful tool.

Family Tree Maker 8.0

The timeline view in *Family Tree Maker 8.0*

places life-spans on a backdrop that marks off decades (See figure 1). Users have the option of adding historical timelines to the chart. Categories of historical events



By Amy Johnson Crow, CG

Details can be overlooked in the lines of text on a family group sheet, but a timeline—with its colors and bars—literally diagrams a person's life.

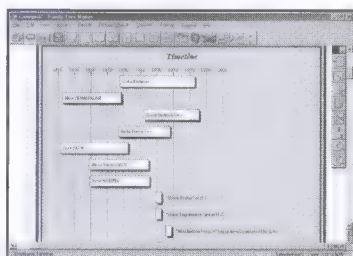


figure 1

United States, and the world. Any or all of the categories can be placed in a timeline at the bottom of the chart or interspersed through the body of the chart.

Timelines in *FTM* 8.0 are fairly basic. People are listed in alphabetical order. Users have the option of including any information they have entered on the family page. All the individuals in a database can be included, or users can select ancestors and/or descendants of a person. People can also be chosen individually to be included or excluded from the timeline view. Users can alter the format, including the interval of the tick marks, (The default is one tick mark for every two decades.) the flow of the years (left to right or right to left), and the appearance of fonts and boxes.

To access timeline view in *FTM* 8.0, click on "View," then click on "Timeline" near the bottom of the list. The buttons on the right side of the timeline view control data and formatting options. Once the timeline has the desired features, users can save the view by clicking at the top on "File," then "Save Timeline." Saved timelines can be viewed later by going to File>Open Saved View and then clicking on the name of the desired timeline.

Generations Liberty Edition 8.5

 www.sierrahome.com

Generations Family Tree Liberty Edition (with *EasyTree* 8.5 and *EasyChart* 8.5) has a timeline chart feature. It does not have the pre-set events that users can incorporate as in *FTM*. *Generations* uses what it calls "perspective events." Users can add these events, as well as change formatting for them on

that can be added include arts, Asia, economics, Europe, military, politics, religion, technology,

the chart, save them as a set, and use them again in other timelines.

The individuals on the chart can be arranged in several ways—sorted by birth date, death date, age, last name, or descendants. The descendant option arranges the individuals as they would appear on a traditional descendant chart with subsequent generations being indented.

The use of color also assists in sorting out the generations.

Figure 2 shows a family

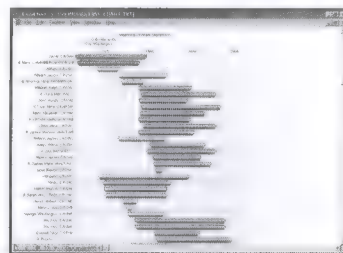


figure 2

arranged by descendants with a few user-added perspective events.

Users can create a timeline by going to the family card window of the desired couple. At the top of the screen, click Charts>Timeline Chart. Several choices are offered at this point, including whether to include all individuals in the database, marked individuals only, or descendants of the current couple.

Timelines can be saved for future viewing. While in the *EasyChart* section, choose File>Save and give the timeline a name. This timeline can then be viewed again in *EasyChart* using File>Open.

Family Origins 9.0

 www.formalsoft.com

Family Origins 9.0 has two types of timelines: a chart, similar to what has been discussed previously, and a text-based list of events. Unlike the other programs discussed so far, *Family Origins* does not have the ability to add historical events, nor can a timeline report be saved for future use.

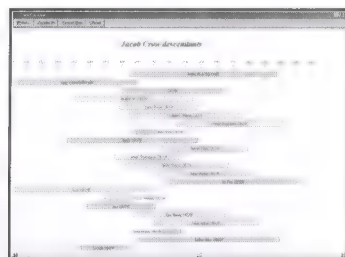


figure 3

Timelines can give a bit of historical context to the family by allowing the researcher to add events that were happening around the family.

The chart type of timeline can be found under Reports>Timeline. (See figure 3) Users can adjust the format of the names, fonts, and colors used in the horizontal bars, as well as choose whether to include the entire database or selected people. If the user opts for "selected people," upon clicking "create" a new menu will appear. From here, users can select who to include in the timeline. There are many options, including individuals (even unrelated ones), descendants and/or ancestors of an individuals, etc. Individuals can also be excluded from a timeline.

The descendant and ancestor options allow the user to set the number of generations and to include spouses. Choosing to include ancestors of an

individual also gives options on including just the direct line, the direct line and their spouses, or all of the ancestors and their collateral

lines. Similar options exist for a timeline created for descendants of an individual.

The second type of timeline that *Family Origins* 9.0 can generate is a text-based list (See figure 4). Rather than displaying a person's life against tick marks representing decades, it gives a chronological list of all the events entered for that person, either as an individual or with a family. It can be generated from Reports>Lists>Timeline List (Family) or Reports>Lists>Timeline List (Personal).

Legacy 3.0

 www.legacyfamilytree.com

The timeline features of *Legacy* 3.0 are similar to other programs, although it is in black and white, rather than in color (See figure 5). Also, you can save the timeline report, but you can't add historical events.

To find the timeline, go to Reports>Select a Report and then click

on Timeline. The timeline report menu gives the option of including either the ancestors or descendants of a particular person. It defaults on the person

highlighted on the family view, although users may select a different individual with "Record Selection" at the bottom of the timeline menu. Users can define the number of generations to include. The Report Options button gives additional options, such as whether to include the data of living persons. Living persons can also be listed as "living" rather than by name.

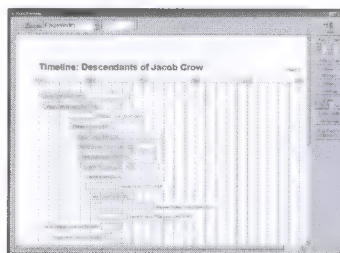



figure 5

The Master Genealogist v4.0d

 www.whollygenes.com

The Master Genealogist 4.0d handles timelines a bit differently than the other programs. Rather than showing lifespans as bars on a chart, *TMG*'s timelines emphasize the events in a person's life and historical events (See figure 6).

Version 4.0d comes with 41 different historical timelines. There is also a function in *TMG* that allows users to create a customized timeline. A common custom timeline outlines dates of county creations where the family lived. Wholly Genes, makers of *The Master Genealogist*, encourages users to share the timelines they create and to submit them to the Wholly Genes Web site. All of the latest timelines are included with version 4.0d.

Users can select any number of timelines and apply them to specific individual(s) in the database. If applied to the entire database, the timeline will show only those events near a person's life. For example, if a person was born in 1935, it

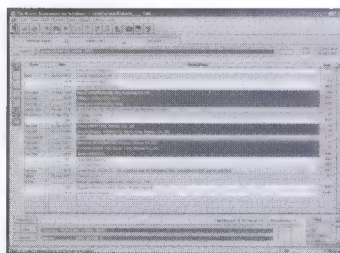


figure 6

**As with
other charts,
every genealogical
program handles
timelines differently.**

*Timelines can
give a whole
new look to data,
making it possible
for researchers to
develop new
strategies
for researching
their ancestors.*

would not show the beginning and ending of the American Civil War (1861–65).

To add a timeline, either globally or to an individual, select Tools>Timeline, then Globally Selected (to apply to the entire database) or Locked to this Person (to apply to the person currently in the person view). To see the historical events appear in person view, click on Tools>Timeline>Status or use the timeline button on the left side of the screen. Having timelines appear in the person view will slow down performance.

A printed timeline can show the historical events in addition to the events entered for that person. To print this report, click Report>Individual>Detail>Individual Detail. To include the historical timelines, go to the options 2 tab and select Timelines: Globally Selected and/or Locked to Each ID. Users have the option of generating this report for a group of people using the focus tab.

Genelines 1.2P

 www.progenysoftware.com

Genelines is a utility software program designed specifically to create timelines. It can read GEDCOM files as well as files directly from *Family Tree Maker* (through version 8.0) and *Personal Ancestral File* (versions 3.0 through 5.0). It has three sets of historical events

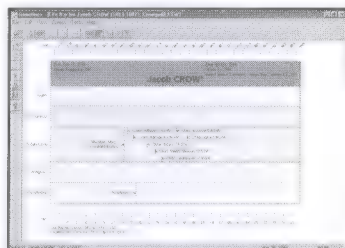


figure 7

included with the program, with more available at the Progeny Software Web site. Progeny also has a free add-on program for Genelines that allows for easier creation of new history files, which Progeny encourages users to submit for sharing on its Web site.

Genelines has two types of charts: biographical and relationship. The biographical charts—individual life bar and comparative life bar—use events from

the person's life (See figure 7). Default categories of life events include health, occupation, relationship, religious, and residential. Users can add other categories. The individual life bar shows the events for one person, while the comparative life chart simultaneously shows the life bars for two people (who need not be related).

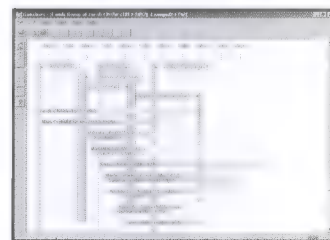


figure 8

Neither type of biographical chart will show historical events.

The relationships charts—pedigree, family group, and direct descendant—take the traditional charts that family historians are accustomed to and show them in a timeline format (See figure 8). These types of charts allow the insertion of historical events.

Genelines is very flexible in allowing users to change formats and colors. Individuals can be moved around on the chart, if desired. This should be done judiciously however, as it could confuse relationships.

Conclusion

Although genealogists have wholeheartedly embraced software for the creation of ancestor charts and family group sheets, the other types of reports available, including timelines, should be explored. Timelines can give a whole new look to data, making it possible for researchers to develop new strategies for researching their ancestors. **G**

Amy Johnson Crow, CG, is a professional genealogist who specializes in Ohio research. She is an author, lecturer, and trustee of APG and the Ohio Genealogical Society, and chair of First Families of Ohio. Amy is a member of APG, NGS, GSG, and numerous state and county societies. She can be reached by e-mail at amy@amyjohnsoncrow.com.

Creating Your Own Genealogy Databases

In relentless pursuit of our ancestors, we spend countless hours searching for and deciphering documents, occasionally glowing about our finds and often fretting over dreaded brick walls.

But for most of us, finding our ancestors is not our toughest job. It is finding them *again* in our unorganized notes, files, and piles so we can analyze what we know, don't know, and need to know that is often so difficult.

But making sense out of our data can be easily accomplished through databases. I'll show you how to easily create databases that will not only help you find your information faster, but will also give you the tools to systematically evaluate your family research. Before beginning, though, a few things about databases need to be understood.

Workhorse Program

A database is just a fancy name for a table of your research information. It has a title, rows, and columns (each column is a field and each heading is a field name). In database parlance, one row across the pages is known as a *record* and each square in a database grid is known as a *cell*.

I've created several genealogy databases in Microsoft Access, one of the most popular database programs. You can use other databases programs, too. I use a database rather than a spreadsheet or word processing program because it is best at sorting and finding data.

You may already have a plethora of data in your traditional family tree-type genealogy program or a genealogy database

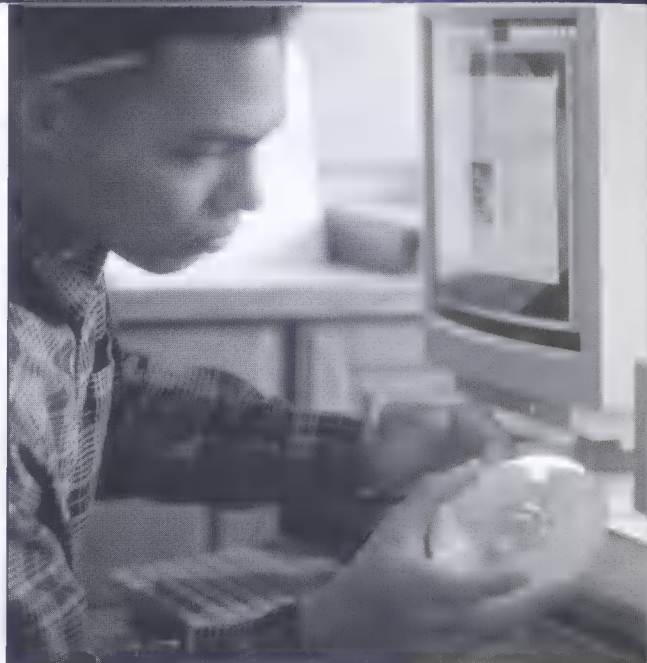
program, such as Clooz. But the homemade databases compliment the commercial ones. Each displays data differently.

The databases you design will be custom-made for your needs and will hold virtually unlimited data in a scrollable, menu-free format. You can copy and paste much data from other genealogy programs into your own databases, enter new data from that point forward, and catch up entering the old information when you work with those types of records.

I've created a research log to hold all my notes; an events, records, and associates table for analysis; facts and sources databases for problem facts and source citations and potential places for better evidence; a research plan; a city directory analyzer to sort by names, addresses, occupations, years and more; a census finder to organize all census lookups by rolls and page numbers; and checklists for records to review.

My Robinson Family Research Log is my workhorse. I put everything associated with my research in it—notes that contain “hits” and “misses,” many pages of background information that may not fit into other programs, sources, transcribed interviews, summaries of data for certain ancestors, tidbits, info pasted-in from e-mails, Web sites and CDs, and the names of books and CDs I own.

I can search, sort, filter, and analyze the data I've already put in the database



By Richard F. Robinson

Making sense out of our data can be easily accomplished through databases.

 www.clooz.com

ID	Title	Call Number	Format	Rec Type	EDate	RDate	Family Name/Summary	Notes
1
2
3

Scroll bar left and scroll bar right views with the first three columns frozen.

I can search, sort, filter, and analyze the data I've already put in the database in a few keystrokes.

in a few keystrokes. In addition, I use the same database to prepare for research trips. I stock the log ahead of time with sources to check so when I get to the repository, I am ready to take notes in my laptop computer under each previously entered record.

Access automatically gives each record an ID number. I put the number on documents associated with the record and file them numerically. If you want your documents filed under another system, just note their specific location in a separate field of your database.


Because I enter all my pertinent findings in this database, I rarely need to check filed documents. When I have to find Great-grandpa Veitch on the 1850 census photocopy, I look up his name and record ID number in the log and go directly to the copy in the file cabinet without fumbling through other documents.

Sometimes I file the same type of records together. I do this with all the photocopies I've taken of city directories such as Brooklyn, New York. I enter the data for each source and label the pho-

tocopy with an ID number, then I create a separate record for the group of individual records. Note the individual contents in the group record and the ID number where it is stored in the individual record.

Creating Databases

Databases are not difficult to create. I'll give you the basic steps to create a research log database in Access. This guide will help you create other databases. If you need additional help, consult Access Help, the introduction-tutorial site called Simply Access, or a good database book.

 www.simplyaccess.com/index.html

To create a table in an Access database, click Start, then Programs and Microsoft Access. Click

Blank Access database and OK. Type a file name, such as Robinson Family Research Log, and then click Create. Click Tables and double-click Create table by entering data. And there's your blank table.

Change the field names to the headings you want by double-clicking a field name, typing a new name, and pressing the Enter key. My field names from left to right are: Title (of record and place), Call Number, Format (book, film, fiche, etc.), Rec Type (record type, such as census), EDate (entry date in log), RDate (record date or year), Family Name/Summary, and Notes. Keep the field names shorter than the width of the column.

If you need more fields, click the name of the last field, click Insert and click Column. The new field will be to the left of the last one. To move the new field to the end, click on the name of the new field and drag it to the right of the last one. You can similarly change the order of any field.

To fit a heading, change the width of a column: place the mouse pointer over

the line you want to move and when you see two crossed lines, drag the column line to where you want it. Click the floppy disk on the toolbar to save the change, type a name for the table, and click OK. Click Yes to create a primary key now to allow the program to automatically give each entry an ID number.

Then click the first empty cell in the first row, and start entering data. Press the Enter key to move to the next column and repeat this until you've entered all the data for the first record. Text will wrap to the next line in a cell, but if you need to move down to the next line press Ctrl + Enter. Then do the same for each additional record. Close and open the database the same way you do other files.

To store more information in a cell than the program initially lets you, click the View button to the far left of the Save Disk icon. Click on the field name and change the Field Size box from 50 up to a maximum of 255. For the field where you will be recording all your notes and want virtually unlimited space, click the Data Type cell, then the down arrow, and select Memo. Click Save. If you want, enter a description for any of the field names and save. This will be displayed at the bottom of the table. Press the View button again to return to the table.

To learn how to scroll, edit data, add and delete a record or a field, check program Help.

Using Databases

Once you've created a database table, you need to know how to find and sort data. To sort a field, click anywhere in the field and click the Sort Ascending or Sort Descending keys in the toolbar. To return the records to their original order, click Records and then Remove Filter/Sort.

In my research log, I can sort columns by entry or record dates, the repository's call number, source title or author, record type, and name of person and place. The log shows that I've seen a certain record before, and it provides a

trail of my research in case I get lost in the research maze. I can search my information by ID number, key words, title or author, call number, by a person's name, or by wildcard searches such as McD*.

To find specific data, click anywhere in the field you want to search, and click the binoculars (Find) or press Ctrl + F. Or if you want to search the entire table, click the down arrow in the Look In box to your database's name.

Type the word(s) or number, click the down arrow in the Match box, and select Any Part of Field. I also like to click More and select Match Case. Click Find Next. Each time you click Find Next you will go to the next instance of that word or number. Click Cancel or X to close the dialog box.

You can also filter data so you'll see only records that contain the same data. A simple way to do that is when you find a match, click the Filter By Selection icon (the funnel and lightning bolt) on the toolbar. You can tell you're looking at only filtered records if you see "Filtered" at the bottom of the screen. Click the Remove Filter funnel to show all the records again.

Finally, you'll want to print your database. You can print three different ways: from the table, from a report, or from a word processing program. You won't see any hidden information in the table printout and the report method is a little tricky if you need to print on legal paper (see Help: Print a report). I just copy and paste the records I want to print into a word processing program, and print them there.

Of course, there are other ways to use these versatile databases. For instance, you can turn the research log database into a timeline of known facts about an ancestor. Find the ancestor's name in the Family Name/Summary column, Filter by Selection, right click in the RDate column, and select Sort Ascending. At the top of the Note column write a larger summary of your findings that will always be in view at that record.

There are other ways to use these versatile databases. For instance, you can turn the research log database into a timeline of known facts about an ancestor.

Routinely sort the log as part of your research strategy. For example, sort it by immigration records so you can plainly see what you've done in that area. Experts often advise that you methodically search certain types of records in a particular order, depending upon your research goal.

Hide or freeze certain columns. Select the column, right-click and select what you want to do. I've frozen ID, Title, and Call Number so they'll always be in view in my legal-size table.

Establish an order for the types of information to put in each field. In the Title column cells, I first enter the locality (state abbreviation, county, city, or town) and then the title of the document (and author's surname). In the Family Name/Summary cells, I enter the surname, given name (my own code on whether it's a hit, miss, or possible), and a keynote or two.

In the free-form notes (memo) column, I generally include information in this order: a summary of the data, goal, analysis, pages photocopied, the notes, and a citation or all catalog source information.

Zoom in and out of a cell by pressing Shift + F2.

To copy information into a cell from the one above, click in the target cell and press Ctrl + ' (single quote mark).

With all of these tips, it's now time to create your own genealogy databases. I faced some initial problems that you expect with any new program, but now I wouldn't do without my research

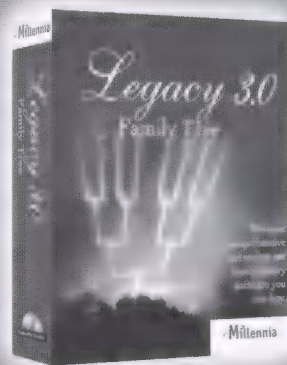
databases. Not only have they organized my genealogy, but they have made the tedious task of record-keeping fun. **G**

Richard Robinson's passion has been record-keeping since he started compiling baseball statistics of the New York Yankees at the age of ten. A professional writer and professional genealogist, he has now entered more than 2,000 records in his research log. He can be reached by e-mail at rfr252@aol.com.

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Millennia

Correcting Bad Data on the Internet

The Summer 1998 and Summer 1999 issues of *Genealogical Computing* contain my opinion pieces, "Think Before You Generate" and "What Are We Going to Do about Bad Data on the Internet?" They both tell the sad saga of the Internet ancestry of Sarah Odding.

Early in 1998, I stumbled across an unlikely and conflicting ancestry on the Web for Sarah Odding, wife of Philip Sherman of Rhode Island—a couple with numerous descendants. Purely out of pity for Sarah (I am not related to the family in any way), I found and published her correct ancestry, which bore no resemblance to the Internet version ["Reconstructing Sarah (Odding) Sherman, Wife of Philip Sherman of Portsmouth, RI," *The American Genealogist* 73 (July 1998): 176-180]. Her father was William, not George, and she was from Essex, not Cornwall. Then I sat back and waited for her correct ancestry to proliferate on the Web. It didn't happen. By 1999, her real father hadn't appeared, and the mythical ancestry had proliferated.

The second *GC* article discussed some proactive options. Jake Gehring, former editor of *GC*, contributed thoughtful ideas about the pros and cons of sending e-mail to each data owner. Now with a second article about poor Sarah Odding published in a computer-savvy publication, I hoped the corrections would be made.

Another year passed, and *GC* editor Liz Kerstens agreed to participate in an experiment with me. One of Jake's concerns had been that some people would not take kindly to being told they were

wrong, especially by the finder of the correct information. Another concern was that the e-mails might need to be individual; group e-mails might be viewed as spam. So Liz and I decided to send identical e-mails, as well as a group e-mail, and we would see how the responses differed.

We began by carefully constructing the e-mail message. The subject line was deliberately nonconfrontational, containing only the names of the couple—no mention of "wrong" or "incorrect." We deliberately did not use those terms anywhere in the e-mail message.

We supplied a full citation to the correcting article. We also explained how to obtain copies and included a link to the Allen County Public Library *PERSI* order form. Then we concluded with a call for action, emphasizing that each recipient should read the article and make a personal judgment call. We did not request replies.

I then compiled a list of e-mail addresses. As of May 2000, the Ancestry World Tree (AWT) contained 41 erroneous ancestries and no correct ones. The Family Tree Maker and Genforum Web sites each had 16, and I found four other Web pages that were all incorrect.

Liz sent a total of 31 e-mails; I sent 30 e-mails to individuals, and one e-mail to a group of 16. Altogether we sent 77 e-mail messages. It was not surprising that 12 of them (16 percent) bounced back immediately with invalid addresses; 44 of the recipients (53 percent) did not reply.



By Patricia Law Hatcher,
CG, FASG

**With a second
article about poor
Sarah Odding
published in a
computer-savvy
publication,
I hoped the
corrections
would be made.**

Ideas for Communicating

- ✓ Send e-mails
- ✓ Submit to Ancestry World Tree (it can be a mini-tree with just the problem of interest)
- ✓ Submit to Ancestral File
- ✓ Submit to Pedigree Resource File (with documentation and notes)
- ✓ Post to surname message boards
- ✓ Post to locality e-mail lists
- ✓ Help people understand how to correct data after they've posted it

The good news lies in two words contained in every one of the 21 replies we did receive: "thank you." It was wonderful to read the positive responses.

The responses also told us about the correspondents and their knowledge of the incorrect data. Some didn't even know the data was in their file. (When researchers work on extended families with cousins, many trade GEDCOM files.

It is difficult to export and import selectively, so most researchers share their entire databases.) Others didn't know they had data on the Internet, didn't know where the data had come from, or had forgotten about it. Still others didn't know how to correct their online data.

Last month I checked AWT; still no change. George was listed in 107 pedigrees, and William was listed in 0. And approximately one third of the files gave the fictitious George an equally fictitious father John. Four weeks later I rechecked AWT and found a change.

Now George was listed in 124 pedigrees and William was still not listed at all. I was discouraged. Clearly, many of those files are from data collectors who grab numerous files and merge them. (This is readily apparent when you see that George has three wives who all have the given name Margaret.) Additionally, some files are duplicates of the same submitter (See sidebar on page 23).

Much of the data originated with one of the three files maintained by the Family and Church History Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. George Odding gets over 100 hits. William Odding isn't there at all. Many people newly interested in genealogy do not realize that much of this data has received no genealogical review for accuracy and documentation. Furthermore, there is no explanation for any of the databases on the FamilySearch™ Web site (See sidebar below).

Many of us have encountered people who refuse to change "their" version of a name, date, or family relationship, even when confronted with primary sources that disprove their pet theory. A documentation supervisor of mine once told me, "There will always be people who are willfully stupid. You will never be able to help them. Ignore the willfully

*The good news
lies in two words
contained
in every one
of the 21 replies:
"thank you."*

FamilySearch™ Databases

Ancestral File is a database like Ancestry World Tree (AWT) that accepts submissions from anyone. Unlike AWT, there is some automated sharing and linking to prevent duplication. Corrected data submitted to Ancestral File is added to the existing (incorrect) data, with one exception. In the Automated Resource Center at the Family History Library, you can actually correct (change) Ancestral File data.

The Pedigree Resource File (index on FamilySearch, data on CDs) is similar to Ancestral File, but has documentation and notes. It was intended

as a place to maintain documented research. Unfortunately, most people see this simply as another database and submit the same files that they submitted to Ancestral File and Web sites such as AWT. Because the data is on CD, it will remain as it was submitted forever.

The International Genealogical Index is a record of events, but not the ones many of us think of. The events are the temple work performed based on the births, marriages, etc., that are referenced. One can't (and shouldn't) change the temple event; it occurred.

stupid and focus on what you can do to help the others."

I am now both heartened and discouraged. It seems clear to me that people are not the problem. We received positive responses to our e-mails. The problem is institutional. Of the information sources mentioned throughout this article, the only ones that had readily available source information (that was no more than a click away) were a few of the personal home pages. It isn't necessarily the fault of the submitter. In an opinion article written by George Archer ("Publish and Perish: Using Genealogy Software without Sources," *GC* Fall 1998, 44), I spotted a terrifying sentence, "Of the total nine utilities [GEDCOM-to-HTML utilities reviewed by Alan Mann in a previous issue] only three explicitly supported sources." Scary, very scary.

While you may eventually be able to get to sources, documentation, or notes from some of these data collections, it usually isn't a simple task. Consider what would happen if I posted a file to AWT naming William as the father of Sarah. The person trying to decide whether George or William is the correct answer would have to download 131 GEDCOM files: my one lonely file, plus 130 for George. (In the week I agonized over the conclusion of this article, fictitious George gained six more postings.) I suspect that any practical person would skip the day of downloading and assume that William was a typo.

This leaves us with our original question. What do we do about bad data on the Internet? We need to identify what can and cannot be changed, and focus our energies productively. One task would be to communicate our findings electronically via the Web.

But we also need to recognize that the traditional method of communicating genealogical findings—publication via paper and ink in journals, books, and monographs—is not passé. In fact, it is more necessary now than ever before to assure that the sources are available to those who seek them. We need to put those paper-and-ink publications in as


many repositories as we can (yes, even on our personal Web pages—with full documentation). **G**

Patricia Law Hatcher is a Certified Genealogist and a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. She writes and lectures on problem solving. Pat can be reached by e-mail at phatcher@worldnet.att.net.

Ancestry World Tree

GEDCOM files submitted to Ancestry World Tree prior to 1 May 2000 were loaded and maintained based on the file name. Thus, if you submitted a file in January 1999 named SMITH.GED, and submitted an updated file in July named SMITH.GED, the old data was replaced with the new. If, however, those files were named JAN.GED and JUL.GED, both the old and new files are in the database. In either case, the file was reassigned a new number.

Files submitted after 1 May 2000 are automatically loaded into Online Family Tree (OFT). You submit them to AWT from there. Since you only have one OFT, future uploads will be replacements.

 www.ancestry.com/library/view/news/articles/1063.asp

But what about those pre-May 2000 files you want removed from AWT? Submit a new file through Online Family Tree, and then send the following e-mail to support@ancestry-inc.com:

"Please delete the following GEDCOM files submitted by me to Ancestry World Tree prior to 1 May 2000. I have submitted a corrected file through Online Family Tree."



names of GEDCOM file(s)

If your e-mail address has changed since then, mention it in the e-mail message also so Ancestry.com will know there isn't a typo in the file name.

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about bad data on
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We need to identify
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Photos Courtesy: Rosemary K. Schmidt

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GEDCOM and the GenTech Testbook Project

Congratulations! The big promotion is yours. The company will arrange for a moving firm to transfer all your possessions from your home in Suburbia to the company-owned condo in Metropolis. This is a dream come true, and you need not lift a finger.

On the appointed day, a small army of men in white coveralls appears at your home with a large van. As you watch, they carefully catalogue every item with its exact location before packing it and carrying it to the van. Assured of their competence, you know this will go well.

A week later you are met by the concierge at your new apartment building and escorted to the penthouse suite that is your new home. At first glance, everything appears exactly as it was in the old house. Even the pictures are in the right place. Then you see a note from the movers:

Dear Sir or Madam,

Due to our failure to understand some of the instructions for unpacking your goods, we were unable to unpack some items. There were also a few items for which an equivalent storage area could not be found. These items have been placed in the storage room for your personal attention.

You quickly locate the storage room. Throwing open the door, you find it jammed full of packing boxes. Now fully aware of the extent of the problem, you start checking for other problems. Where are the linens? In the old house they were in the hall linen closet. The condo has no hall linen closet. You find them in the master bedroom closet. Then you notice

that your son's bedroom furniture is in your daughter's bedroom and her furniture is in his room. Suddenly, you realize that the garden furniture and shop tools are missing. A call to the movers does nothing to alleviate your concern. They have no idea where the missing items could be, but they assure you that they will do their best to find them.

The Problem

The above scenario is analogous to a GEDCOM transfer. When a GEDCOM file is created, all the data, or hopefully most of it, contained in the program's database is itemized, tagged with an identifying marker, and placed in a structure as defined by the GEDCOM standard. This information is then recorded in a text file that can be interpreted by any genealogical program supporting the GEDCOM standard. At least, that is the theory.

In practice, we often find that we are trying to move data from one program to a very dissimilar one. The receiving program might not have a designated place for the data. It may also misinterpret or fail to understand the identifying tags. In these situations, each program might take a different approach to solve the problem. One program might inform you that it can't read the data. Another program may place all the unidentified information into a note field, and yet another might create a storage location but leave it up to you to properly identify it. For the user expecting a complete and



By Bill Mumford

For the user expecting a complete and accurate transfer of GEDCOM data, the exercise will likely be a disaster.



accurate transfer of data, the exercise will likely be a disaster.

The GENTECH organization, recognizing the problem, initiated the GEDCOM Testbook Project a number of years ago. A story was developed that

encompassed many of the situations the average genealogist would encounter in the course of a search. Volunteers then extracted the basic information from the story and recorded it in a number of popular genealogical programs. Once entered, a series of reports were generated. A GEDCOM file was then generated and imported into the other programs participating in the test. The same reports were generated and compared to the original. The differences were noted. These tests confirmed that problems existed and indicated the extent of them.

In the summer of 2000, a new approach was initiated with the intention of defining as precisely as possible the information being lost and the reasons for this loss. To accomplish this, it was first necessary to create a standard GEDCOM file that would serve as the basis for the necessary comparisons. Realizing that most of the GEDCOM difficulties lie with the interpretation of the standard by the developers, it was decided to use a grammar file prepared by Jed Allen of the GEDCOM Coordinator's Office for use with his GEDCHK program. A new story line was adapted to this grammar. The story was based on existing research, but events were added to make use of all but four of the legitimate GEDCOM tags. Name changes, multiple marriages, and an adoption were included. After some tweaking, the control file passed the GEDCHK test.

The Test

Four programs were selected for the initial test. *Family Tree Maker* 7.5 and *Generations Grande Suite* 8 represented

the best-selling programs. *Ultimate Family Tree* 3 and *The Master Genealogist* 4 were selected to represent the more advanced programs. This turned out to be a serendipitous choice when Genealogy.com announced *UFT* was to be discontinued. Their many users would be faced with a monumental task should they decide to transfer their data to another program.

Volunteers were recruited to enter the story line information into the four programs as well as into a number of others. To ensure that data entry was consistent, the volunteers were given a list of items to be entered. Any data they were unable to record, they were instructed to place in notes with an appropriate comment. Source information was kept to a basic level that was well within the transfer capabilities of GEDCOM.

Once a volunteer completed data entry in their assigned program, a GEDCOM file was created and forwarded to the project leader for evaluation. Evaluation was straightforward but time consuming. In order to obtain consistency in the evaluation process, the project leader, who maintained copies of each program used in the test, prepared all evaluations. If necessary, the volunteer's original database could be loaded to answer any questions regarding data entry.

The first step in the process was to check each of the test GEDCOMs using the GEDCHK program. This identified all tag exceptions, syntax errors, cross reference errors, and extensions to the grammar. The control file was then imported to the program to be tested. In most programs, an exception list was created listing those items the program failed to recognize. These lists were often incorrect, citing faults that were self-generated as errors, and they failed to identify those tags the program does not support. The full extent of the data transfer was then determined by comparing the data actually transferred with the original data contained in the control file.

The GEDCOM files from each of the other programs in the test were then imported to the program being evaluated.

A new approach was recently initiated with the intention of defining as precisely as possible the information being lost and the reasons for this loss.

Again the exception lists, if available, were checked for veracity. As with the control file, the imported data was checked item by item for both accuracy and location. When discrepancies were found, the importing GEDCOM file was checked to verify that the data was included and to identify any possible problems due to the grammatical structure.

The Results

Initial test results indicate that the principal causes of poor GEDCOM transfers are tags out of context and developer-supplied tag extensions. Developers not using the most current version of the GEDCOM standard might explain some of these problems. Other errors are caused by the failure of program developers to interpret the standard as intended by its authors. Some developers, following a draft version of an earlier GEDCOM specification, have created a series of non-standard tags. Some of these tags are used in situations beyond the user's control, but many others are supplied for use with various events. Unaware that these tags are not supported, the researcher will use them only to discover later that the information is invariably lost in a GEDCOM transfer.

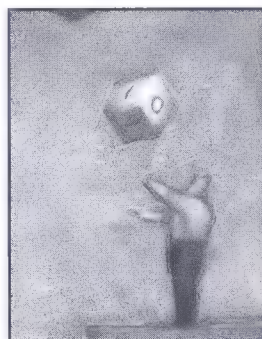
In evaluating the initial four programs, the most commonly found fault leading to data loss was the failure to read the NOTE tag at all the possible levels at which it may appear. The ADDRESS substructure as defined in the specifications was rarely properly interpreted. A source substructure intended for those situations not using the author/publisher tags fell into the same category. The adoption information transferred in all cases, but the correct linkages to the adoptive and natural parents were not made. Other problems occurring sporadically were instances where the DATE and PLACe tags were out of context and the QUALitY tag was found at the wrong levels. Preliminary examination of the six other programs currently awaiting a full evaluation indicates similar problems exist. The initial reports

can be found at the GENTECH Web site.

Another interesting observation is that it is possible for users of the identical program and using identical data to create GEDCOM files with some differences. This is because the user can decide how data

should be entered. Also noted was the fact that the more comprehensive programs did not place all the information recorded in their GEDCOM files. This is often deliberate. Some information requires that it be transferred in context in order to maintain its value. Simply dumping it to a note file could destroy any value it may have. In the case of *Ultimate Family Tree*, the GEDCOM procedure is so inadequate that the user wishing to transfer his or her data as intact as possible has no choice but to use *The Master Genealogist* and its GenBridge feature.

At GENTECH 2001, Randy Bryson of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, announced a new version of GEDCOM. As anticipated, this new version will use XML coding and the Unicode character set, thus supporting the use of 90 percent of the world's languages—including Arabic, Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and those languages using the Cyrillic alphabet. It is not expected that this new standard will solve all the problems associated with the transfer of genealogical data. GENTECH's GEDCOM Testbook Project will continue to monitor data transfers as the developers incorporate this new standard. G



Initial test results indicate that the principal causes of poor GEDCOM transfers are tags out of context and developer-supplied tag extensions.

Bill Mumford is the project leader of the GEDCOM Testbook Project and a director of GENTECH. He is a contributing editor (software) for the NGS Newsmagazine and past chair of The Alberta Family Histories Society Computer Group. He is the developer of the Genealogical Software Report Card, <www.mumford.ab.ca/reportcard/> and can be reached at mumford@mumford.ca.

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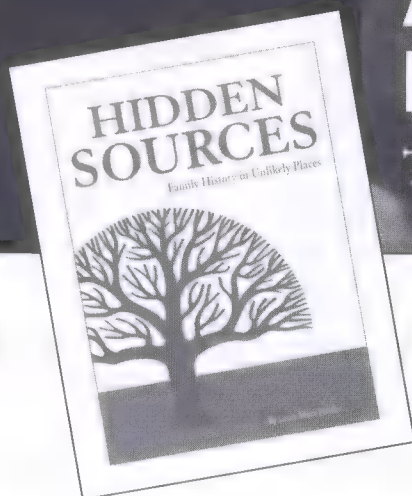
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Organizing Your Time and Space

Over the past twenty years, I've bought dozens of books that promise to free me from the chains of a disorganized lifestyle. I now have an entire shelf on one bookcase devoted to these books, each with its own system of getting the messes of time and space under some type of control. Usually I manage to find at least one or two good ideas in each book, and I shudder to think what I'd be facing if I hadn't taken advantage of those tips and techniques.

But more and more of my daily time is spent in front of my computer, and the remaining piles of unsorted papers in my work office and home office are supplemented by a hodgepodge of digital files strewn throughout my computer's hard drive and on countless 3.5" disks. In this article, I'll share some of the best time and space organizing techniques distilled from decades of self-help books, and I'll apply them to your computer.

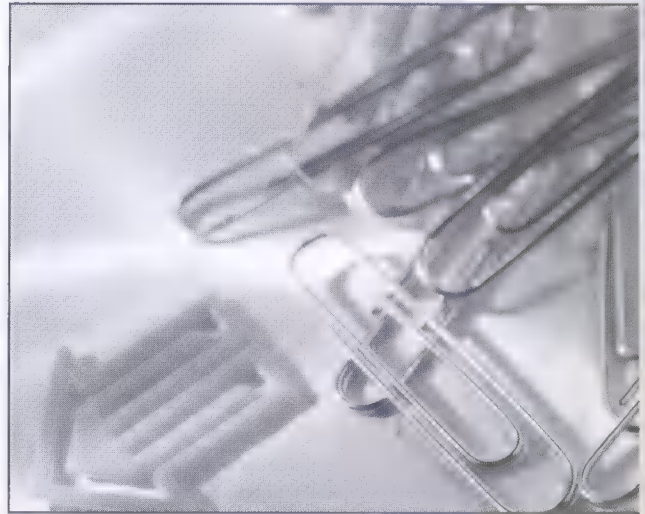
Begin with the Desktop

The Macintosh, followed by Microsoft Windows, set the stage for nearly all home computer users by adopting the idea of a computer screen as a "desktop." The designers knew that everyone was familiar with a home or office desk, with a place to read, write, and file away documents. Our computer's virtual desktop, then, is designed to resemble the real one, although in reality it recreates the entire physical desk, including the file cabinet underneath the desktop. As computer-using genealogists, one of the biggest mistakes we can make is to turn our virtual desktops into near copies of our real ones, cluttered with cute paperweights, photos of our

loved ones, and piles of papers that we're afraid to sift through.

Therefore, the first time/space management tip we should apply to our virtual desktop is to simplify it. I begin by using a solid-colored background that contrasts strongly with the icons that appear on it. The color you choose is a personal preference, but I recommend something fairly bland, something you hardly even notice. Just as we wouldn't want our home/office desk to have a top surface so patterned that we could lose something on it, we would not want a computer background so distracting that it takes us much time to find the icons we need! If you want something more attractive for your computer desktop, use a screen saver of a landscape or loved one's photo. While you're getting work done on your computer, leave the paintings and family photos to the walls and desk surfaces of your office.

Next, focus on the icons that appear on the screen. Here, you want as few as possible. In fact, you want only those that you use nearly all of the time. If there is a program that you use only once every few weeks, it does not deserve its own icon on your desktop. Such programs can be reached by clicking on Start and then Programs. On my own desktop at home, I have the standard icons for My Computer, My Documents, and Recycle Bin (plus a few others that my operating system seems to feel that I need). Beyond that, what appears on my desktop is my choice—



As computer-using genealogists, one of the biggest mistakes we can make is to turn our virtual desktops into near copies of our real ones, cluttered with photos of our loved ones and piles of papers.

*The more
frequently you
need something,
the closer at hand
it should be.*



and here is where I can simplify my life.

What programs do you use every day or every other day? I (and probably most other genealogists) use e-mail software, a Web browser, a genealogy database program, and a word processor, so I have icons on my desktop for each of these programs. I also have an icon for Microsoft *PowerPoint* (because I am working on a lot of presentations), and one for a bridge game that I play between periods of doing work. Currently, I have only twelve icons on my desktop.

The computer programs that you use are analogous to the physical tools you keep on your desk, such as a telephone, pens, pads of paper, staplers, scissors, and a letter opener. On top of our physical desk, besides these common tools, we also keep the papers that we're currently working with (e.g., bills to be paid, letters to be read and responded to, genealogical documents to be examined and filed, etc.). In the same way, the other things that we can keep on our computer desktop are the files that we are currently working with: word processing documents, digitized images, and so forth.

The biggest difference between the computer desktop and the real desktop is that we can use the "shortcut" feature to minimize the need to move documents around. For example, let's say that I have a folder on my computer sys-

tem that contains digitized photos of my ancestors, and I plan to work with one of those photos. I can leave the photo folder where it is (so I don't have to worry about getting my files into a disorganized mess), and create a shortcut on my desktop to the particular file I'm currently working with. One of the easiest ways to do this is to right-click on the file and select "Send To" (with the "Desktop" option). When I am no longer working with this file, I can drag the shortcut to the Recycle Bin, keeping my desktop tidy.

Beyond the Desktop

If our computer desktop should be used only for icons pointing to those tools and files that we need frequently (you'll have to gauge for yourself what frequently means), where should we put other programs and files? Hard drive storage on computers is much cheaper than it used to be, so it has become less common to run out of space. But does this mean we should store everything on our hard drives? Again, we should look to time and space management experts. The more frequently you need something, the closer at hand it should be. Translated into computer terms, there are three locations we can put our tools and files: on our desktop, on our hard drive, and on other media (such as 3.5" disks, Zip disks, and CD-RWs).

What should go on your hard drive, and what should go on other media? Because you are probably not going to want to spend much time uninstalling and re-installing software, you'll likely keep most software on your hard drive. Also on your hard drive will be files that you want immediate access to. For a genealogist, this might include nearly everything, but there are a few exceptions. Digitized photos tend to take up a great deal more space than other types of files. Unless you are in the midst of working on a family history book that needs a given set of photos, or you're otherwise researching a line that involves those photos, your photo collection is a prime candidate for storage away from

your hard drive. You want to think of removable storage media as your archive: the place for rarely used files, backups of more frequently used files, and large files if you're running short of hard drive space.

Togetherness Is Good

Back in the real world, one of my least favorite chores used to be paying the bills. It wasn't so much the amount of money I owed, it was more the hassle of assembling everything I needed without losing the bills to begin with. One of the most valuable time/space management techniques I learned was to create physical spaces for each task that I wanted to accomplish. So I created an area in my home office for bill paying. When a new bill arrives in the mail, I immediately put it in the bill-paying area (a small shelf on top of my credenza). The surface of the credenza under the shelf is useful for writing the checks. The letter drawer just below that surface holds my checkbook, stamps, and address labels. The larger file drawer just below the letter drawer holds the hanging folders where I file the statements after I pay the bills. Within easy reach of this area are my pens and a stapler to staple multi-page bills. I can sit at this one location and quickly pay all of my bills without having to get up and find the things I need.

As genealogists, we can apply this same technique to our computer. Rather than sort our files by type (documents in this folder, photos in this folder, other kinds of files in other folders), we should collect everything we need for a particular project, and keep it in the same folder. For genealogy, a project might be a particular surname, a geographic location, or an upcoming research trip. If you use both a desktop computer at home and a notebook computer while you're traveling, you can easily transfer a project folder from one computer to another, without having to open many other folders to find everything you need for the trip. When you return, you can easily copy the updated project folder back to

your desktop computer.

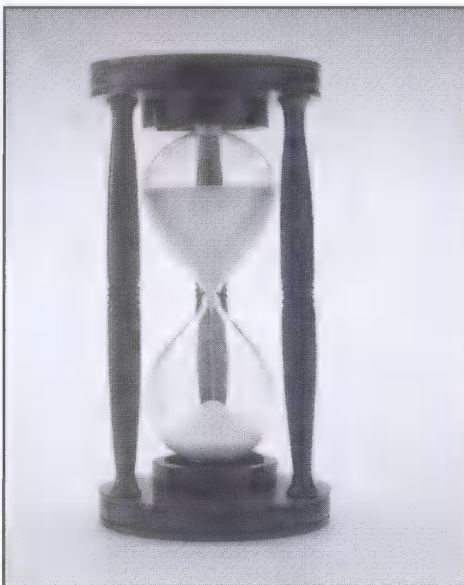
Of course, you may find that some of your computer files may be part of more than one project. In this case, you can use the Shortcut feature again to put the original file in one project folder, and Shortcuts to that file in all of the other project folders that need it. Also, you can put a Shortcut to the project folder itself on your desktop, if it is a project that you are currently involved with.

Making Names Work

For me, one of the biggest time-wasters is looking for folders and files that I need. The best way to avoid this is to name folders and files carefully from the outset. Not only should you do this for folders and files you create, but you should also do this for files you receive from others. After all, they probably named the file something that was significant to them, but not as significant to you. I began using computers when folders and file names couldn't be longer than about eight letters, so I'm still fairly conservative when it comes to naming folders and files.

The name you choose is going to have to meet several criteria. First, it should make sense within the folder you're placing it in. If you have a folder called "Smith photos," it won't make much sense to have a file inside it named

***Rather than sort
files by type,
we should collect
everything we
need for a
particular project,
and keep it in the
same folder.***



If you're not careful about how you name files and folders, you may end up with the file or folder appearing at a strange place.

"smith.jpg" or "photo.jpg." You might be tempted to name it something like "george.jpg," but that's going to cause you problems if you ever need to move it to another folder. The second criterion is that files and folders are usually going to be listed in alphabetical order (unless you choose a different order). If you're not careful about how you name files and folders, you may end up with the file or folder appearing at a strange place.

In the example of a photograph of my father, George Smith, I will choose to give it a name that will help me find it in an alphabetical list. I might name it "SmithGeorge.jpg." If I have more than one photo of him, I might add more information to the file name to distinguish it from the others, such as a year. My file names could be something like "SmithGeorge1945.jpg" or "SmithGeorge1960.jpg."

Conclusion

Many self-help time/space management books were written before the age of personal computers, but that doesn't mean we can't take some of those basic concepts and apply them to our digital environment. Just think how much more you'll be able to accomplish on your computer when you clear away the mess! **G**

Drew Smith, MLS, is an instructor at the University of South Florida in Tampa, where he teaches library/Internet research skills and genealogical librarianship. He is the webmaster and listowner for Librarians Serving Genealogists. He is also a past leader of the Genealogy and Local History Interest Group of the Florida Library Association. Drew can be reached by e-mail at DrewSmith@aol.com.

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Parentèle

Parentèle is not a new genealogy software program, but it is new to the United States. I was impressed with it when I first saw it at the GEN-TECH conference in February of 2001. It has been in use in France for several years, and is now available in several European languages, as well as in English. The program is beautiful to see on the screen, and has some unusual features, especially in its navigation system. It is designed especially to handle multimedia of all sorts. A note on the opening screen states that it was developed from a program called GED2HTML, written about 1995 by Eugene W. Stark, but that the concepts of this program came from Patrick Binet and Phillippe A. Chastel.

Navigation Bar

The first thing I noticed about Parentèle was its navigation bar, and I consider it to be the program's most attractive feature. The Navigation Bar appears along the entire left side of the screen and is divided into four parts or zones (though some can be hidden if you wish). It provides easy access to the information stored in the program.

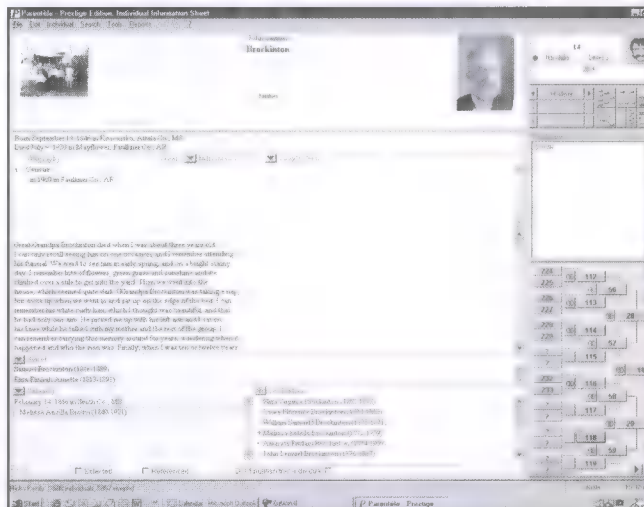
In the top zone is an Identification Panel that shows the person's gender (by icon), and gives his or her "Sosa" (ahnentafel) number, birth order, the generation level compared to the home individual, and a code that identifies the parents of the individual currently being worked on. For those who are not ancestors of the home individual, Relative appears instead of a Sosa number.

In the second zone are buttons that allow a choice of display of pedigree,

family, or individual sheets; a camera icon that can be selected to view multimedia files for the individual on the screen, and

whose flash will be lit if such files already exist; an icon for searching for individuals; and three more buttons that let you choose whether the bar displays a pedigree chart, a list of shortcuts, or a *worknote*. A very useful button in this portion is the History button, which gives access to about twenty of the persons most recently accessed in the database.

The third zone is for the WorkNote. This WorkNote is a mystery I was unable to solve. By clicking on the Worknote icon, it can be hidden or displayed. For some individuals, it displayed part of the GEDCOM information I had imported for that person. For others, it was blank. For yet others, it had the four-letter GEDCOM abbreviation, but did not display the data associated with it. It is mentioned in only one place in the manual, stating that you can edit the individual's worknote in this space, and that when you close the window the changes will be saved. I have searched all the information given to me, including Help and the manual, and can find no further mention of this item. I suppose it is a place to keep opinions, things to be done, etc., but would have liked some guidance on it. When the Worknote window is closed, as it was in every illustration in the manual, the fourth zone navigator uses the additional space.



INFORMATION

Minimum Requirements:
Pentium 100Mhz; Windows 95, 98, NT, or 2000; 16M RAM; 30M hard drive space; 2x CD-ROM drive; SVGA 800 x 600, 65,000 colors recommended.

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information on
your family.**

The fourth zone, which can be hidden if desired, shows the simulation of a 5-generation pedigree chart, and each individual represented on the chart by a bar with a number, which seems to be the same as the ahnentafel number. The information for any individual can be brought to the front screen by clicking on his/her bar on this chart. For those of us who cannot recall the number for every person on our charts, balloon help is available. Hold the mouse over a button, and the name of the person represented will appear; or right-click on the button for a list of the individual, his or her spouses, and all of the children. You can then click on anyone on that list and bring that person's data to the working screen. There are also arrow buttons that move to the ancestor with the Sosa code directly before or after the one currently being used, or to the “home individual.” This makes navigation easy and is probably the most attractive feature of the entire program.

Individual Information Page

Entering information about individuals is easy and intuitive for the most part, and you can create as many events as needed for each person. Some things did not work as I expected, but they did work easily according to the author's intentions. For example, I expected to click on the camera icon in order to add a photo to the individual's screen, but that did not work. To do this, I must choose the menu item for Individual and then select “Add multimedia file.” Either is easy, but the icon seemed more intuitive to me. It is possible to have a portrait or snapshot on each side of the individual's name, and the program expects to have an individual portrait on the right and a family portrait on the left. I had another surprise here; only one family portrait is allowed for the entire database and appears on every screen once one is selected, whether the individual belongs to that family or not. Changing the family shot on any information page changes it for every page in the database. I'm sure there are those

who consider this a feature, but I'm not among their party!

On this page, all data entry and editing for an individual is done. Just click on any item, and the edit window for that item will appear. Closing the edit window saves the information and returns you to the individual data sheet. From the illustration, you can see that the basic information about an event can be easily entered. Free-form text is provided for, and there is a blank for typing in the source of the information and the location of that source, and another for storing the place where the event occurred. Sources and/or places can be cut and pasted from one screen to another, but I did not find the usual divisions for title, author, publisher, date, address, etc., or for city, county, state, and country such as I find in most genealogy programs.

Reports

Parentèle presents about 80 kinds of reports, all formatted and containing both text and graphics. You can add color, use fan charts as well as the traditional formats, make graphs of data concerning your family and its origins, print timelines, kinship lists, and more. I found no offering to create reports of your own design, but there is certainly a multitude of built-in formats from which you may choose. The printed reports are attractively formatted and would please most genealogists.

The *GED2HTML* program on which *Parentèle* is based created Web pages from GEDCOM files. This ability has been greatly enhanced, and creation of Web pages with this software is easy and the results are attractive.

It is unusual for a program to offer to make a CD of your data, but *Parentèle* does this, including a read-only version of the software that can be used by anyone with a PC and a CD-ROM drive.

And Yet...

This program is beautiful to behold on the screen. It is easy to enter data and to attach multimedia files, and it

appears at first to have most of the things researchers would want in such a program, yet I found several inadequacies that I hope will be eliminated in future versions.

First, the program is designed to open the Help file in your Internet Browser at opening—surely an unusual setting, and one that I found disconcerting. To get from the opening Help file to the program, you must click the close button in the upper right, but from other places in the program, clicking this same button closes the program itself. I did not appreciate the inconsistency. Instructions are given for disabling this feature, but I wonder why it was designed this way at all. When I run a program, I really like to see the program itself first, and then to use the standard Help menu if I want help on some feature. Since many users are uncomfortable about resetting default features, I consider this a drawback to the program. The Help menu item works differently from the *Windows* standard in this program. When I selected Help from the menu, *Acrobat Reader* opened, but the Help file available was for *Acrobat Reader*, not for the *Parentèle* program.

Second, the program requires the original CD to be inserted before it can be run. The manual states that the user can “personalize” the database in order to disable the requirement of the CD, but it is necessary to send the registration information to the company, wait for them to send you an e-mail with a code that unlocks the CD requirement, and then type that code into the program. This is a lot of trouble for a “feature” that I’ve not found in any other genealogy software.

Third, the source and place records are available and can be used and reused, but they do not seem to be in separate databases. For the source, I typed in the entire record as I wished it to appear, but was not prompted for individual parts such as author, title, volume, page, etc., as is customary in most other programs. For places, the country, state, county, city, etc. can all be entered, but there is no prompt to help with the data

entry and no separate blanks for each. Since most of us enter only part of this information in many records, I fear these places would become terribly jumbled as I use the program. Further, there is only one reference in the manual to “Sources.” Here is an entire quote of the information provided on that page: “For each event (birth, christening, death, will burial [sic], union, prenuptial agreement, end of union, and other biographical events) you can enter the source of the information and where it can be found. *Parentèle* offers a list of commonly used sources. If the source does not appear in the list, enter it into the adjacent field.”

Fourth, I found the manual to be weak in most of the things for which I needed reference. Very little was explained adequately, and much was not explained at all. As is too often the case with manuals, the obvious was explained in elementary terms, but the obscure was not mentioned at all.

Summary

This program is easy and exciting for a nondemanding genealogist. It provides space for most of the information that should be kept, and easily handles photos, sound clips, and action clips. It prints many attractive reports. I’ve seen no other program that provides for easier navigation. There are, however, glaring weaknesses in the more scholarly areas, especially those of databases for places and for sources. The promise in the program is exciting, but in its current state, it would not please the more demanding user. **G**

*Parentèle presents
about 80 kinds of
reports, all formatted
and containing both
text and graphics.*

Betty Clay is a retired math teacher. She has been doing genealogical research for more than 30 years and attends numerous conventions and institutes in order to improve her skills. She began her writing career with technical articles for computer magazines, but now writes mostly for genealogical publications. She can be reached by e-mail at bclay@compuserve.com.

FOR ALL GENEALOGISTS

New!

PROFESSIONAL GENEALOGY:
A Manual for Researchers, Writers,
Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians.
Edited by Elizabeth Shown Mills. xxvi,
654 pp., illus., indexed, hardcover.
2001. ISBN 0-8063-1648-9. \$44.95

Edited by Elizabeth Shown Mills, the editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, *Professional Genealogy* is a manual by professionals for everyone serious about genealogy. For family historians who want to do their own study, reliably, it describes the standards. For hobbyists, attorneys, and medical scientists who seek professional researchers, it's a consumer guide that defines quality and facilitates choices. For librarians who struggle to help a whole new class of patrons, it provides a bridge to the methods, sources, and minutiae of history, up-close and personal. For established genealogical professionals, it offers benchmarks by which they can advance their skills and place their businesses on sounder footing. And for all those who dream of turning a fascinating hobby into a successful career, *Professional Genealogy* details the preparation and the processes.

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Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians has been long awaited. It is the most significant publication in genealogy in a generation!

Also by Elizabeth Mills...

**EVIDENCE! Citation and Analysis
for the Family Historian.**

By Elizabeth Shown Mills. 124 pp.,
indexed, hardcover. 1997.
ISBN 0-8063-1543-1. \$16.95

Elizabeth Shown Mills, the editor of the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, has written a priceless primer on evidence for anyone who does genealogical or historical research. As the subtitle indicates, *Evidence!* focuses on the analysis and proper citation of one's sources. The author discusses the merits of direct versus indirect evidence, the value of a variety of independently created sources, original versus derivative information, the potential biases of the creator of a record, the role of penmanship in ascertaining a record's authenticity, and more.

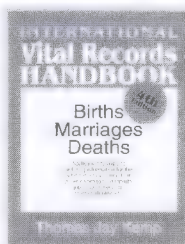
The balance of *Evidence!* is concerned, one way or another, with the proper citation of one's sources of information: What to document and what not, where to place citations, how much to cite, and, of course, what the citation should look like.

**INTERNATIONAL VITAL RECORDS
HANDBOOK.** By Thomas J. Kemp.
Fourth Edition. 8 1/2" x 11". 617 pp.,
paper. 2000. ISBN 0-8063-1655-1.
\$34.95

Over 200 pages longer than the previous version, the new Fourth Edition of the *International Vital Records Handbook* contains the latest forms and information for each of the fifty states and also furnishes details about the records that were created prior to state-wide vital records registration; then, in alphabetical sequence, it covers all the other countries of the world, giving, where available, their current forms and instructions. Since most non-English-speaking nations have neither a centralized vital records registration system nor application forms of any kind, this work provides as a substitute a list of national and provincial record repositories or key addresses of other institutions that might be of assistance. The Fourth Edition includes current addresses and phone numbers, with fax numbers, e-mail addresses, and web sites, if available, as well as fees, starting dates of records, and alternative record locations.

"...Kemp's book offers the latest and easiest methods for obtaining vital records world wide. Highly recommended for all public libraries."—*Library Journal*, 12/2000.

**Professional
Genealogy**



**IN SEARCH OF YOUR GERMAN
ROOTS. A Complete Guide to
Tracing Your Ancestors in the
Germanic Areas of Europe.**
By Angus Baxter. New Fourth Edition.
121 pp., indexed, paper. 2001.
ISBN 0-8063-1656-X. \$11.95.

In Search of Your German Roots is designed to help you trace your German ancestry not only in Germany but in all the German-speaking areas of Europe. First, it explores the resources of the LDS Church—both in print and on line—and, in particular, the great *International Genealogical Index* which contains hundreds of thousands of entries from German parish registers. Then back to the old country, where sources and archives are discussed in detail, especially Evangelical and Catholic church records and records of state and city archives—wills; censuses; civil records of birth, marriage, and death; passenger lists; military records; etc. Finally, Mr. Baxter presents a list of family archives, a list of genealogical associations in Germany, a list of similar associations in the U.S., and a bibliography—all updated to reflect the many changes in the location of both national and local archives, church headquarters, and areas of operation of genealogical societies that resulted from the unification of East and West Germany.

**IN SEARCH OF YOUR EUROPEAN
ROOTS. A Complete Guide to
Tracing Your Ancestors in Every
Country in Europe.** By Angus
Baxter. New Third Edition. 327 pp.,
paper. 2001. ISBN 0-8063-1657-8.
\$18.95

This work is designed to guide the reader through the complexities of genealogical research in Europe, whether done in person or by correspondence. It covers the various types of genealogical records available in each country, where they are found and how they are used. With up-to-date information on church, state, and provincial archives (including current addresses) and a discussion of the characteristics of each area and the ways in which they affect the research process, it opens up great possibilities for tracing ancestors in Europe.

Besides the customary revisions and updates, this new Third Edition includes—for the first time—telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, fax numbers, and URLs for most of the major European archives and organizations. Furthermore, it deals authoritatively with changes brought about by the unification of Germany, the break-up of the Soviet Union, and the dismemberment of Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia.

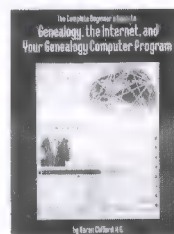
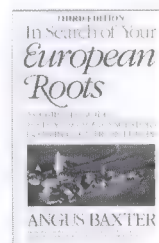
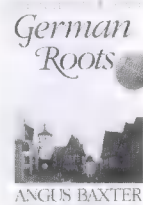
"If your library can afford only one European genealogy sourcebook, make it this one."—*Library Journal*, 2/15/1995 [Second Edition]

**THE COMPLETE BEGINNER'S GUIDE
To Genealogy, the Internet, and
Your Genealogy Computer Program.**
By Karen Clifford. 8 1/2" x 11". 376 pp.,
indexed, paper. ISBN 0-8063-1636-5.
\$24.95

This book shows how to combine traditional research methods in the National Archives, the LDS Family History Library, and other major resource centers with today's technology; how to conduct research in courthouse records, censuses, and vital records by using techniques unheard of just a decade ago. It shows you how to get started in your family history research; how to organize your family papers; how to enter information into a genealogy computer program so that you can easily manage, store, and retrieve your data; and how to put together a family history notebook—all the while using conventional record sources with a modern search and retrieval system.

This groundbreaking book is also designed as an instructional manual, complete with chapter assignments to serve as review and comprehension checks, computer checklists to give the reader hands-on experience with his or her own genealogy computer program, and Web site addresses listed at the end of each chapter to guide the reader to valuable Internet resources related to the topics.

"Recommended for public libraries."—*Library Journal*, 2/1/2001.



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Personal Ancestral File 5.1

In a world of software upgrades, it is always wise to look before you leap into a new version of a program. This is doubly true of genealogy database programs that contain years of research and weeks or months of data entry. Computers are a fragile way to process and store so much work; the last thing you want is a software bug creating problems.

Personal Ancestral File version 5.0 was released at the beginning of 2001. Being free and with such a large number of users, the program was soon subjected to the rigorous tests of actual use in the genealogy community at large. Problems were reported and by the end of March, a *PAF* 5.1.7 update was available online for downloading.

Unusual? Only the speed with which the 5.1 upgrade was made available. The most frequently reported problem was printer errors. But it wasn't a bug in *PAF* 5.0; the problems were actually due to Windows printer drivers. Fortunately, the *PAF* Development Team found a workaround and the update was released.

Is *PAF* 5.1.7 stable enough for the cautious user to download and begin using? Probably. This version is being considered for mastering on CD-ROM to be sold at a nominal cost through the Salt Lake Distribution Center (800-537-5950). For researchers who have an Internet connection and the mildly sophisticated skills needed to download software, *PAF* 5.1 and its associated lessons and users guides are free at the FamilySearch Web site.

With more companies placing free entry-level versions of their genealogy database programs online, the real ques-

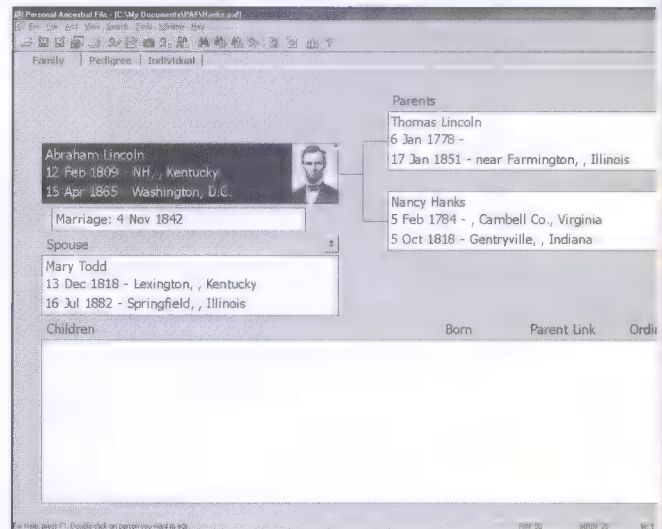
tion may be whether to follow the path of upgrading to this latest version of *PAF* or consider switching to one of the other free programs. Upgrade or switch?

Two of *PAF*'s greatest strengths have always been its ease-of-use and, when you do have problems, the nearly universal help available. Even though recent free versions have lacked toll-free telephone support, there is plenty of help to be found in your neighborhood or online. Just go to any Family History Center (call first to learn when a knowledgeable volunteer will be on duty) or attend a computer interest group meeting at a local genealogical society. You are likely to find a local *PAF* expert ready and willing to help you learn to use the many features of this free software program. Similarly, there are a half dozen e-mail discussion groups listed for *PAF* users at the RootsWeb and FamilySearch Internet sites.

Currently, *PAF* 5.1.7 is available for download in English, Chinese, German, Japanese, Korean, and Swedish (with more to be added soon). To see the *PAF* display screens and printed reports in one of the languages listed above, download the program in that language.

Download Options

When downloading *PAF*, several other download options will be made available. Lessons (English only) can be downloaded (8.5 Mb) or viewed online. In *PAF* 5.1, go to the Help Menu and choose Lessons.

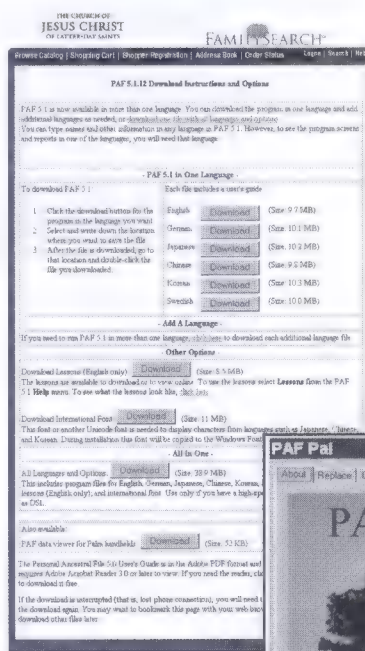


INFORMATION

Minimum Requirements:
 Windows 95B, 98, ME, NT 4.0,
 2000 or Windows 95A with
 Microsoft Internet Explorer;
 Pentium PC or iMac with a
 Windows emulator; 32 MB
 memory; 20 MB to 60 MB
 hard-disk space; 256-color display
 adapter supporting at least
 800 x 600 screen resolution

Optional: Internet access,
 printer, mouse

 www.familysearch.org



International Font file (11 MB) containing one Unicode font can also be downloaded.

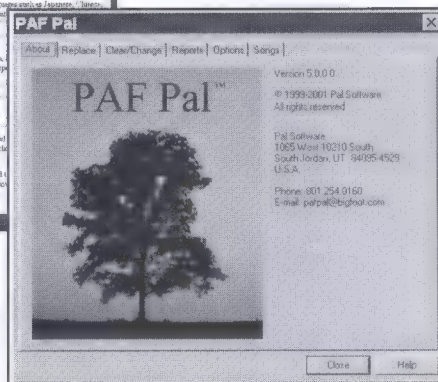
There are other Unicode fonts, so if you already have one on your computer, you may not need to download this file.

The All Languages Option (38.9 Mb) is also available for download. Use this option only if you have a high speed Internet connection. It includes all languages currently available, the Users Guide in Adobe Acrobat format (.pdf file), Lessons (English only), and the International Font file.

Users can also download *PAF DataViewer* for handheld computers (52 Kb).

Note: You can type names and other information in any language that your computer is set up to display or print into the data entry fields of the English version of *PAF* 5.1. It is only if you want to see the screens and print features in a foreign language that you need to download the *PAF* 5 program for that language.

The ability to handle a broad range of languages—everything from Chinese Mandarin to Hebrew to Russian Cyrillic characters—may not mean much to you if you were already happy with *PAF*'s West European language capabilities.



New Features

Of more interest to many genealogists is *PAF*'s new ability to custom-tailor data entry screens. This means that if you are entering several hundred christenings from a particular parish register, you can customize a data entry template that has only those fields of information found in that parish register. Conversely, if you are doing Southern U.S. research and rarely, if ever, encounter christening records, why spend your time tabbing past empty fields? Customized data entry templates in *PAF* 5.1 streamline data entry and are very easy to design and designate for use in your current and/or future data entry sessions.

Other than its new international language abilities, PAF 5.1.7 seems to be more evolutionary than revolutionary.

How To Download PAF 5.1

 www.familysearch.org

- ✓ Select the Home tab
- ✓ Select Order/Download Products
- ✓ Select Software Downloads-Free
- ✓ Select Personal Ancestral File 5.1-Multi-Language (item 77034999) (even if you only want the English version).
- ✓ Click on Proceed
- ✓ Select Continue on the License Agreement page
- ✓ Complete the free registration form
- ✓ Click Send
- ✓ Read the PAF 5.1 Download Instructions
- ✓ Select the Download button for your choice

There are plenty of other changes and improvements to the program. Names are now entered in normal order in one field. Entering slashes on either side sets off surnames. If you forget to do this, the program asks you to clarify. There are more match/merge options than ever before, and multimedia links can be imported or exported.

Multimedia is still not *PAF*'s strongest area. *PAF* 5.1.7 limits you to just one image file per source and one image file per citation detail. This means that if your source is a book and you have scanned the title page, the back of the title page, the table of contents, and any explanatory pages as separate images, you have to use a photo editing program to combine them into one large image file. And if your ancestor's information covers more than one page in the book, you have to save all those pages as one image file to attach to the citation details.

Go online, and once you have installed *PAF* 5.1, click on the Help menu in *PAF*. Choose Feedback and Frequently Asked Questions from the drop-down menu that appears. This takes you to the *PAF* section of Feedback at the FamilySearch Internet site. A link is provided in the main frame of that Web page for you to click to see a list of improvements (and bug fixes) in *PAF* 5.1. There is also a new Check for Software Updates option under Help in *PAF* 5.1 that checks to see if you have the most recent version.

Add-ons

There are two commercial add-ons for the *PAF* 5 program: *Personal Ancestral File Companion* 5.0, available on compact disk from the Salt Lake Distribution Center (800-537-5971) or online at the FamilySearch Web site (cost \$13.50; item number 50128000).

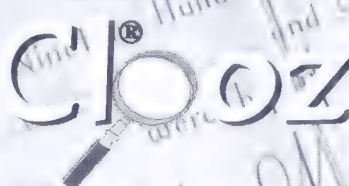
The *Personal Ancestral File Companion* 5.0 adds additional charts, reports, and printing features, including an hourglass chart. The other commercial add-on is *PAF Pal* 5.0 from Pal Software. E-mail <paftpal@bigfoot.com> for more information (cost \$18, plus \$2 shipping outside the U.S.; Utah residents add \$1.19 sales tax). *PAF Pal* runs from within *PAF* 5 and adds a large number of maintenance features, including search and replace for parts of names and many LDS fields of data. This feature also works to clear fields, like the Custom ID field. *PAF Pal* enables additional Internet searches at sites such as Ancestry.com and (assuming you have a membership to those commercial sites). *PAF Pal*'s most useful feature may be its ability to abbreviate (or expand abbreviations) of states in the United States, provinces in Canada, and counties in Great Britain, allowing you to alternate between more printing room and greater clarity for your place names.

In a Nutshell

Other than its new international language abilities, *PAF* 5.1.7 seems to be more evolutionary than revolutionary. Upgrade or switch? The choice is yours. **G**

Barbara Renick currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the Association of Professional Genealogists and as vice-president of the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She is on staff and teaches at the Regional Family History Center in Orange, California and writes for several genealogy publications including the NGS NewsMagazine, Genealogical Computing, and the APG Quarterly. She is co-author of the book The Internet for Genealogists: A Beginner's Guide. She can be reached by e-mail at barbz@earthlink.net.

Filing system ready for an upgrade?



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734-354-6449
info@clooz.com

If you're serious about making family history, Ancestry.com is making a lot of census in 2001.

AIS Census Index: Pre-1790

1790 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS)

1800 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS)

1810 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS)

1820 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS)

1830 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS)

1840 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS)

1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA

1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): NY

1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): IL, IN, MI, MN, WI

1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): OH

1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS,
NC, SC, TN, VA, WV

1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): CA, IA, KS, MO, NE, NM,
OR, TX, UT

1850 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS) Suite

1860 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): CT, ME, MA, NH, VT

1860 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): DE, DC, MD, NJ, PA

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1860 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): FL, GA, NC, SC, VA, WV

1860 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, TN

1860 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): AZ, CA, CO, ID, IA, KS, MT, NE,
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1870 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): FL, GA, NC, VA, WV

1870 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): AL, AR, KY, LA, MS

1870 U.S. Federal Census Index (AIS): AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV,
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1910 Miracode Census Index: Pennsylvania, Central Region

1910 Miracode Census Index: Pennsylvania, Northeastern Region

1910 Miracode Census Index: Pennsylvania, Philadelphia County

1910 Miracode Census Index: Pennsylvania Suite

1910 Miracode Census Index: Virginia, Western Region

1910 Miracode Census Index: Virginia, Eastern Region

1910 Miracode Census Index: Virginia Suite

1910 Miracode Census Index: Ohio, Western Region

1910 Miracode Census Index: Ohio, Eastern Region

1910 Miracode Census Index: Ohio, Cuyahoga & Hamilton Counties

1910 Miracode Census Index: Ohio, Central Region

1910 Miracode Census Index: Ohio Suite

1910 Miracode Census Index: Kentucky, Western Region

1910 Miracode Census Index: Kentucky, Eastern Region

1910 Miracode Census Index: Kentucky Suite

1910 Miracode Suite

AIS Mortality Schedules Index: 1850-1885

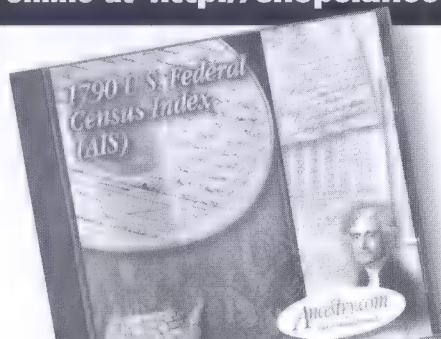
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The Latest in Voice Recognition Software

A few years ago I tried using voice recognition software, hoping it might simplify the task of transcribing wills, deeds, and other genealogical documents. Many of the words found in the old documents are not commonly used in today's speech and therefore I spent much time correcting and adding words manually. The computer was also sluggish and froze often. After many frustrating attempts to verbally transcribe with the computer, I finally abandoned the idea and reverted to the old read-and-type method. At the time, home computers simply did not have sufficient speed or memory to process the speech software in a timely manner.

Recently, I learned that the medical profession is successfully using voice recognition software to dictate patient medical reports, record diagnoses and laboratory results, and even write prescriptions. The computer can recognize the difficult medical procedures and terminology as well as the names of medication much easier than the pharmacist can decipher the doctor's illegible handwriting. If the computer can successfully understand medical terminology, why can't it do the same for genealogical terms? Maybe a more powerful computer and a newer release of software would have better success than before. Perhaps I should give voice recognition another try.

Voice recognition systems have changed significantly in the past couple of years. Current technology permits dictation in a natural tone, in complete phrases and sentences as you would in normal conversation. Described as "continuous speech" systems, the new technology is easier to use and has bet-

ter recognition. It is also more accurate and much faster, provided you have a computer with sufficient processing power.

The four major voice recognition programs currently on the market are IBM *ViaVoice*, *Dragon NaturallySpeaking*, Phillips *FreeSpeech 2000*, and L&H *VoiceXpress*. Last year, L&H purchased *Dragon Naturally Speaking*, but it is currently marketing both products.

Each of these products offer three or more versions, with prices ranging from \$50 to \$200. The higher-priced versions include text-to-voice capability, which enables the computer to proofread the dictated text back to you. They also permit you to control the computer and software using only voice commands.

Even the least expensive versions have simple internal word processors, much like *WordPad* or *SpeakPad*, which don't require a lot of memory. The more expensive versions include the capability to dictate directly into *Word*, *WordPerfect*, and many other applications. While these features may sound attractive, genealogists should be aware that they require significant computer resources when they are used. Unless your computer is very powerful, you may be disappointed with the end results.

Some of the less expensive versions require that all corrections be made to the dictated text before saving the transcribed document. Others allow you to save the dictated voice file with the document, allowing you to make corrections later. This creates a large temporary sound file, but after you make corrections, it can be



Referred to as "continuous speech" systems, the latest voice recognition software is easier to use and has better voice recognition capabilities.



saved without the sound. This feature allows much more flexibility to your schedule.

In all versions, the software package includes a special headset microphone, which should be used for maximum recognition. The microphone is specially designed to block out external noises and to provide the best voice pattern, thereby enhancing voice recognition. In addition, the headset maintains the microphone at a constant position from your mouth for maximum quality.

Before installing any voice recognition software, be sure to verify that your computer has the minimum specifications to handle the program. Most of the packages suggest a minimum of 266 MHz Pentium II (or equivalent) processor with 64 megabytes of RAM and *Windows 98*. Of course, a faster processor with more RAM will allow the software to recognize and process the speech more quickly and accurately. Most of these programs require about 300 megabytes of hard disk space. (*ViaVoice Pro* requires 510 Mb free space.)

Installing the software is straightforward and takes only about 15 minutes. After the program files are installed, you are prompted to calibrate the microphone and to create a voice model. This is easily accomplished by reading one of four short stories furnished in the program and viewed on the screen. As you read the lines, the script automatically fades and scrolls to indicate that the computer understands what you said. The software records how you pronounce certain sounds and phrases, so it can recognize and type your words later.

After you are finished, the software analyzes your speech pattern and stores it in memory. This takes an additional 10 to 15 minutes, depending on your computer's processing speed.

The Voice Model

You can continue training the voice model by reading additional stories now or at any later time. Naturally, the more stories you read, the more the computer can refine your voice model and gain more accurate recognition of your dictation. Later, as you use the software for actual dictation and make corrections, you can add the corrected information to the voice model and thereby increase future recognition reliability. (Also, several people can use the same software for dictation, but each user must create his or her own individual voice pattern and remember to select it before dictating.)

After the voice model is completed, the program will analyze your previously typed documents. This is perhaps the easiest and surest opportunity to build a vocabulary and add any special words you will be using in your genealogical documents. Simply specify what files the computer should look at and it will go through them to find new words not already in its vocabulary. The new words are displayed in order by the number of times they appear in the document. This process allows you to decide whether or not to add each new word to the permanent vocabulary. While the computer looks for new words, it also studies the context in which those words are used, and stores that information within the voice model.

As an example, if you dictate a simple word like *to*, the software won't know whether you intend *two*, *to*, or *too* unless it understands the context in which the word is being used. This type of analysis is also performed as you dictate new text; the software learns your style of speaking and the context of documents that you often dictate. While the analysis is not foolproof, it certainly seems to get it right more often than wrong.

The software records how you pronounce certain sounds and phrases, so it can recognize and type your words later.

Vocabulary Manager

Voice recognition software uses vocabularies similar to the dictionaries with high-end word processors. The vocabulary verifies spoken words like spell check verifies the dictionary. If the software does not understand the pronunciation of a word, or does not find it in the vocabulary, it questions it and offers substitutions. Of course the more words in the vocabulary, the more likely that the software will select the correct one and speed up the recognition.

New words may be individually added to the vocabulary at any time. You can open the Vocabulary Manager to add words and record your pronunciation to the vocabulary. Once a new word is added and trained, the software can

have a separate sound card. If you are having difficulty with voice recognition, and your computer is of that type, you might consider adding a separate sound card. The price of a sound card is usually based on the quality of sound output and not the input. In voice recognition, only the input is of importance, so any quality sound card would be satisfactory.

Tips to Success

1. Have plenty of computer power—minimum Pentium III (or equivalent), 128 Mb RAM, Windows 98.

2. Purchase the latest version of whichever software you choose. It does not have to be the most expensive version, but this tech-

4. Let the computer analyze as many genealogical documents as you have available.

5. Continue to add words to build a large vocabulary of unique genealogical terminology.

6. Continue correcting mistakes during dictation so they are added to improve the voice model.

7. Dictate in a reasonably quiet, controlled sound environment. **G**

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phone that bypasses the internal sound card, significantly improving input sound quality.

Some of the newer desktop computers come with the sound card built into the motherboard. Those units are not as desirable for voice recognition as units that

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saved without the sound. This feature allows much more flexibility to your schedule.

In all versions, the software package includes a special headset microphone, which should be used for maximum recognition. The microphone is specially designed to block out external noises and to provide the best voice pattern,

After you are finished, the software analyzes your speech pattern and stores it in memory. This takes an additional 10 to 15 minutes, depending on your computer's processing speed.

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You can continue training the voice model by reading additional stories now or at any later time. Naturally, the more stories you read, the more the computer can refine your voice model and gain more accurate recognition of your dictation. Later, as you use the software for actual dictation and make corrections, you can add the corrected information to the voice model and thereby increase future recognition reliability. (Also, several people can use the same software for dictation, but each user must create his or her own individual



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words later.*



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New words may be individually added to the vocabulary at any time. You can open the Vocabulary Manager to add words and record your pronunciation to the vocabulary. Once a new word is added and trained, the software rarely misses it during dictation. One of the keys to successful transcription of genealogical documents is the building of a large vocabulary of genealogical terms.

Desktop or Laptop

Desktop computers will usually perform better for voice recognition than a laptop having the same specification, for a variety of reasons. The sound input circuitry of the smaller computer is electronically "noisier" than the desktop and is physically closer to other noisy components such as the disk drive motor. The power saving capabilities and other smaller components on the laptop also contribute to some of the loss of input sound quality. The *ViaVoice Pro* comes with an optional USB connection for the headset microphone that bypasses the internal sound card, significantly improving input sound quality.

Some of the newer desktop computers come with the sound card built into the motherboard. Those units are not as desirable for voice recognition as units that

have a separate sound card. If you are having difficulty with voice recognition, and your computer is of that type, you might consider adding a separate sound card. The price of a sound card is usually based on the quality of sound output and not the input. In voice recognition, only the input is of importance, so any quality sound card would be satisfactory.

Tips to Success

1. Have plenty of computer power—minimum Pentium III (or equivalent), 128 Mb RAM, Windows 98.

2. Purchase the latest version of whichever software you choose. It does not have to be the most expensive version, but this technology is improving so quickly it changes significantly each year.

3. Spend plenty of time creating a good voice model; read *all* the stories they offer.


4. Let the computer analyze as many genealogical documents as you have available.

5. Continue to add words to build a large vocabulary of unique genealogical terminology.

6. Continue correcting mistakes during dictation so they are added to improve the voice model.

7. Dictate in a reasonably quiet, controlled sound environment. **G**

Jim Slade is on the GENTECH Board of Directors. A retired civil engineer, he is active in genealogical research and lectures nationally on subjects relating to the use of computers for genealogy research. He is the former chairman of the NGS Computer Interest Group and has led the Genealogy Group of the Oklahoma City Computer Users since 1993. He can be reached by e-mail at sladej@swbell.net.



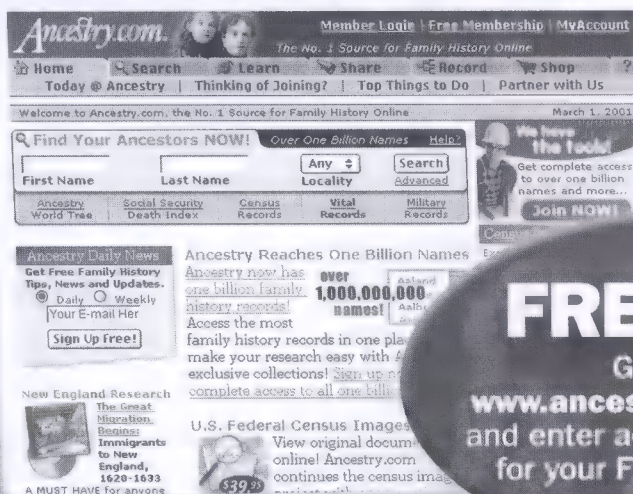
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REVIEWS

Census Index: United States 1810

Reviewed by Susan Dechant

Generations Archives CD #ACD-1026. Produced by Heritage Quest; P.O. Box 540670; North Salt Lake, UT 84054-0670; CD-ROM. System requirements: Windows 2000/ME/98/95; Pentium 100 CPU or greater; 16 MB RAM; 15 MB hard drive space; 4X CD-ROM drive. \$39.95 (HQ member price \$35.96).

 www.HeritageQuest.com

According to its creator, this new CD is touted as having "the most accurate and reliable index ever created for the 1810 U.S. Census." The census itself had 826,349 entries from 16 states (CT, DE, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NY, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA, and VT), but more than 26,800 names were overlooked in previous indexes. This index lists all heads of household and can be searched by any one or combination of seven categories (or fields): surname, given name, state, county, locality, microfilm number, or page number.

A viewer comes on the CD with the index. Installing it was quick and easy; and if you purchase any more of the Generations Archives CDs, you shouldn't have to install it again (unless the developers release a newer version). Within minutes you are ready to get to work. The screen looks somewhat similar yet different from the older

Family Quest Archives (the viewer used for the first indexes that Heritage Quest developed). If you have used the earlier indexes, you should feel at home fairly quickly.

Being able to search on more than one field at a time definitely gives the electronic index a tremendous advantage over a printed one. You can search for a name (surname and/or given name) and come up with a list of everyone in the census with that name. You can find everyone in a particular state by adding that to the search criteria. If you know the county, you can narrow your search further and likely come up with a list of other relatives living in that county. Once you find a page number for your particular person, use that as one of the search criteria (including state and county) to find all the immediate neighbors of your ancestor. Note that this will only work in those censuses where the enumerator did not go back and create an alpha list that was submitted to the Census Bureau.

At any time, you can send your list to a file on your hard drive or to your printer. You can easily eliminate one or more of your search criteria, if you want to change what you are looking for, by double-clicking on those criteria; you don't have to clear the whole search and start over from the beginning. You can also use wildcards in your searches to solve the problem of some spelling variations.

The information given in the index is enough to get you to the actual microfilm. It gives you the microfilm number, the roll number, and the page number, as well as the state, county, and township (if there was one designated). I found this to be a very useful tool for locating my ancestors in the 1810 census; and if you couldn't find your folks in the old 1810 indexes, give this electronic index a try. Hopefully they will be one of the 26,800 names that have been added!

Genealogical Records: PA Colonial Records, 1600s-1800s

Reviewed by Kay Haviland
Freilich, CG

Family Tree Maker's Family Archives CD #512. Produced in collaboration with Genealogical Publishing Company; 1001 North Calvert Street; Baltimore, MD 21202. 2000. CD-ROM. Minimum system requirements: Family Archive Viewer, version 3.02 or higher [free download] or Family Tree Maker version 3.02 or higher. \$29.99 plus shipping.

 www.familytreemaker.com/512facd.html

Gathered together on this CD are a variety of sources for researching early-Pennsylvania ancestors. Among the "must-use" records are the names of the individuals who took the oath of allegiance during the American

Revolution. Other records, like newspaper abstracts, fall in the "should-be-checked" category. And a few sources might be classified as "look-but-double-check," such as the three-volume set of *Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania*, a massive but undocumented study of many early Keystone state families.

The advantages of having these works in one compilation are two-fold. First, a researcher has the opportunity to have in his or her personal library a set of books that would be far more expensive (if available) and take up far more space than the CD. The second advantage, and at least as compelling as the first, is the search capabilities. There is an every-name searchable index on the CD that includes each title, as well as individual indexes to the works themselves.

All these works have been published previously. Three (*Early Pennsylvania Land Records: Minutes of the Board of Property, Persons Naturalized in Pennsylvania*, and *Names of Foreigners Who Took the Oath of Allegiance*) come directly from Series II of the published *Pennsylvania Archives*. This standard Pennsylvania reference series is widely available in research facilities throughout the country. Indexing of the series, though, was limited. Volume II, which contains the naturalization lists, is not indexed at all; Volume XVII (*Names of Foreigners*) has an incomplete index; while Volume XIX for the land records has a complete surname index.

While the *Pennsylvania Archives* may be easy to find, Mary Dunn's *Index to Pennsylvania's Colonial Record Series* (Series I of PA) is not as frequently on library shelves. Access to this index will open the contents of the 16-volume set of

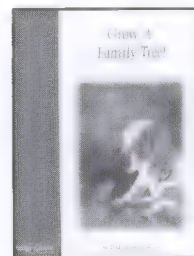
records. Another unindexed source found on the CD is *Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania: Genealogical and Personal Memoirs*. Published in 1911, the set should be used in the same cautious manner as the county histories of the same era. There is a wealth of undocumented information included that has been largely inaccessible, both because the volumes are not widely available and because they are unindexed.

Two other sources from the CD are also not widely available. Boyd Crumrine's *Virginia Court Records in Southwestern Pennsylvania* was first published in 1902 in *Annals of the Carnegie Museum*. Complete with an every-name index, it includes court records, deeds, and old wills from the area in southwestern Pennsylvania where ownership was claimed by both Virginia and Pennsylvania. Often "lost" ancestors from both states are found here. Thompson Wescott's *Names of Persons Who Took the Oath of Allegiance to the State of Pennsylvania Between the Years 1777 and 1789* includes a lucid and complete explanation of the laws leading to these oaths. First published in 1865, it has been reprinted in recent years.

Finally, the CD contains Kenneth Scott's abstracts of Pennsylvania's earliest newspapers, the *American Weekly Mercury*, first published in 1719, and Ben Franklin's *Pennsylvania Gazette*, which began in 1728. The published volumes are completely indexed. Including them provides an added dimension to the types of information on the CD.

There are certainly limitations to the various sources included in *Genealogical Records: Pennsylvania Colonial Records, 1600s-1800s*. But the limitations apply to the

printed versions as well as to the electronic ones. Researchers of colonial Pennsylvania's residents should seriously consider adding this easy-to-use CD title to their library.



Grow A Family Tree

Reviewed by Linda Woodward
Geiger, CGRS, CGL

Grow A Family Tree: Seven Simple Steps. By William Dollarhide. Published by Heritage Quest; P.O. Box 540670; North Salt Lake, UT 84054-0670; 2000. xiv, 184 pp. and CD-ROM. Charts, index of subheadings. Softbound. \$24.95.

 www.HeritageQuest.com

The book *Grow A Family Tree* is a new package for previously published materials. *Grow A Family Tree* is a how-to text divided into three sections: 1) Seven Steps [for growing a family tree], 2) Five Essays, and 3) blank forms for copying. The majority of the text in this publication has been previously published as articles in the *Genealogy Bulletin*.

In Part I, Dollarhide presents seven steps with which readers can nurture their young saplings, which will someday become their family tree: 1) Do Your Homework, 2) Start Family Sheets, 3) Locate More Relatives, 4) Get the Vital Records, 5) Search the Census Records, 6) Search the Local and State Sources (emphasis is placed on using the Family History Library and FamilySearch), and 7) Search the National Resources.

William Dollarhide has a great deal to offer the genealogical community, but this how-to text has at most one novel approach—the theme of Skip Tracer. Unfortunately, the Skip Tracer theme is tainted when Dollarhide compromises his credibility by suggesting that it is permissible to stretch the truth when tracking down living relatives and when obtaining information from them. In this work it is also apparent that he condones the misrepresentation “tricks” found in Ferraro’s *You Can Find Anyone: A Complete Guide on How to Locate Missing Persons* (Santa Ana, Calif.: Marathon Press, 1989).

In the twenty-first century, how-to texts for beginners should include the exemplary research standards developed throughout the years. The current standards for documentation and evidence evaluation (to name but two important standards) are not voiced within this publication. Throughout the text, online sources and CD-ROM publications are used to illustrate sources of information without warning that much of that material (unless they contain true scans of original records) may be unreliable or suspect at best.

Dollarhide explains that the five essays presented in Part II of *Grow a Family Tree* are “the most important aspects of genealogical research.” Dispersed among the essays are some examples and case studies. The essays, all previously published in the *Genealogy Bulletin*, are entitled: Federal Land Records; Land Grants and Deed Records; Maps, Names, and Places; Organizing the Paper; and Genealogical Numbering Systems.

In part three, Dollarhide presents beginners with several forms and charts in two formats: a blank

form designed for copying, and the same form filled in with Dollarhide’s family data to illustrate how researchers might use the form. The forms presented are a Family Data Sheet; Family Group Sheets (three variations with a Continuation Sheet and an FGS Reference Sheet); Pedigree Charts (two versions); an Ancestor Table; a Correspondence Log; a Research Journal; a Relationship Chart; and a Genealogy Source Checklist (two pages).

Grow A Family Tree also includes an alphabetical list of subheadings, a variation of the table of contents, which is called an Index. A comprehensive index would have been most welcome.


The CD accompanying the book is simply a digitized copy of the book (no additional material is located therein). Therefore, individuals do not need to have access to a computer to use this text. The CD would be particularly useful for researchers to print the forms in Part III if a photocopier is not readily available to them.

All of the material in this book is available online (or in other published forms) by Heritage Quest. Consequently, individuals who faithfully read the *Genealogy Bulletin* will not learn anything new from this text.

How to Use Clooz Video

Reviewed by Juliana Smith

Narrated by Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens. Produced by The Studio; 39 South Main; Hurricane, UT 84737; 2001. VHS format. \$14.95 plus shipping.

 www.123genealogy.com

Users of the genealogical organizational program *Clooz* now

have a new resource to help them get the most from the program. In a new video narrated by *Clooz* creator Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, CGRS, CGL, users are walked through the *Clooz* filing system, step-by-step.

Often referred to as “the electronic filing cabinet for genealogical records,” *Clooz* is a software program designed to help family historians manage the huge number of documents they acquire as they search for their ancestors.

Videos are becoming more and more prevalent as a way for companies to teach users how to get the most from their products. The visual elements of the video and step-by-step screen shots give users a better view of the product and its uses, and contain many of the advantages you would get with a seminar or hands-on demo. One notable exception to this would be that users can’t ask questions, but in this case, Ms. Kerstens has taken care of that aspect, too. She includes information about the *Clooz* mailing list and even provides her own e-mail address as technical support for *Clooz* users.

The video is divided into seven sections that take users from setup to analyzing the reports created once the data is entered. This division of the video is very helpful as users can pause the video and take a break between sections to perform some of the tasks described. By breaking the program into “bite-sized” pieces, users can get a feel for and better absorb what they have just learned by putting the lesson to work before moving on to the next step.

The first portion of the video describes the *Clooz* organization principles of filing by document or event type, and offers suggestions for the numbering systems

that users will use to locate their documentation.

In the next section, users are walked through the process of creating a database. The following three sections teach users how to enter various documents (including census records, wills, vital records, city directories, and photos), and link them to the people found in those records.

The sixth portion focuses on "Using Clooz Reports to Analyze Future Research Needs." Here, more benefits of the program regarding its use in research can easily be seen. The video closes with a description of some additional features, such as switching from one database to another, editing the various lists that the program maintains for you, and archiving your data—a critical step that is too often overlooked.

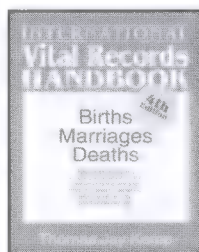
This video will be a great help for those interested in learning more about the program and may show users aspects that they have missed in the past.

In addition to the Clooz video, a printed users' manual is also available and both products can be ordered from the Clooz Web site.

 www.clooz.com

The Studio has a selection of other videos available, including *Using Ancestry.com*, with Jake Gehring; *Legacy 3.0 Family Tree Video Training*, with Geoffrey D. Rasmussen; *Using FamilySearch Internet Genealogy Site*, with Stephen W. Lemmon; *On-line Reference Tools for Genealogy*, with Barbara Renick; and *Digital Imaging for Genealogy*, with Richard Wilson. For a complete listing, visit the company's Web site.

 www.thestudio.net



International Vital Records Handbook

Reviewed by Michael L. Dickson

International Vital Records Handbook 4th edition. By Thomas Jay Kemp. Published by Genealogical Publishing Co.; 1001 North Calvert Street; Baltimore, MD 21202-3897; (2000) 2001. 603 pp. Softback. \$34.95 plus \$3.50 shipping.

 www.genealogybookshop.com

Vital records have always been the lifeblood of family history researchers. Birth, marriage, and death certificates, and to a lesser extent, divorce and adoption records are major sources of original primary data. The *International Vital Records Handbook* is designed to help you easily obtain these important records.

The book is arranged in three sections: United States, U.S. Trust Territories, and International. For each state or country, the handbook lists the appropriate governmental repository addresses, phone numbers, fees, and earliest records available. If available, alternative vital record sources, fax numbers, e-mail addresses, and Web site addresses are also listed.

Most important, Mr. Kemp provides copies of the official application forms for most jurisdictions. You simply make a copy of the appropriate form, fill it out, and mail it in along with the indicated fees.

The *International Vital Records*

Handbook is an impressive reference. Every public and genealogical library should add this practical book to its reference section.

I was disappointed at the information given about online resources. Although the Web site and e-mail addresses of the vital records offices are listed, very little was mentioned about online ordering of records (unless the official application form happened to reveal the information).

Most of the domestic and major international vital records offices now have an online presence, and many include downloadable forms. Organizing information such as "where to find vital records" is what the Web does best. Keeping the information current is much easier online than in a printed book. And, much more detail (such as vital record information at the county level) can easily be handled.

However, no general discussion of online techniques for locating vital record offices was presented.

Useful Web sites such as the Vital Records Information site, the Center for Disease Control's National Center of Health Statistics site, and the VitalChek online ordering network were not listed.

Even genealogical directories such as Cyndi's List or simple search engines such as Google were not mentioned.

Before the Internet, the *International Vital Records Handbook* would have been a "must have" for any researcher's personal genealogical reference library wish list. Unfortunately, today, with the amount of information available online, I must recommend GC readers spend their limited funds elsewhere. **G**

 www.vitalrec.com

 www.cdc.gov/nchs

 www.vitalchek.com

 www.cyndislist.com

 www.google.com

Genealogy and American Mobility

Passion for genealogy continues to make national news. Media reports on the Ellis Island Web site indicated there were 50 million hits during the first six hours it was open. After that initial onslaught, the site still averaged two million hits per hour. Those of us in the post-World War II baby boom generation, who are fueling the current mania for finding one's roots, obviously have a passion for computers and the Internet. Surveys about online usage report genealogy sites are some of the most popular on the Web.

In our search for roots, we are eager to find distant records. On average, two thousand people use the far-reaching resources of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City every day. Other well-known genealogical archives also have numerous patrons anxious to access their holdings. Libraries that have Web sites are still in the beginning stages of making some of their material available online. The fragile nature of manuscript collections means it is a time-consuming and expensive proposition to digitize old documents, letters, and records. And it can't be an easy task for curators to prioritize the items they offer online. The Web makes overwhelming amounts of data available, but it can be easy to get preoccupied with online research.

Genealogists have to prioritize what to seek and how to conduct research, both on and offline. The recommended pattern is to focus on one family line at a time. But with all this time spent at the Family History Library and on the Internet, are we eagerly finding local records? Perhaps we have ancestors who lived in or near the area we currently

reside. We should be aware of the migration routes of other ancestral lines and be seeking out their records—especially if their homes were near our own.

Relocating

Americans are a mobile people; only 15 percent of the population has lived in the same house for 20 years or more. U.S. Census Bureau statistics on geographical mobility during the last 25 years indicate that about 45 percent of U.S. residents move within any five-year period. The average duration we spend in a home is just 5.2 years. Although some families have lived in the same area for generations, many of our ancestors also migrated between different states or regions of the country.

If you have ever relocated from one state to another, you may discover that a move has coincidentally brought you to a locale where another branch of your forebears once lived. When I moved to the Detroit area, I wasn't aware that I had any family connection to this place. A conversation with California relatives led to my discovery of ancestors who were from Michigan. My first foray into genealogical research was at the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library. Among its holdings, I found a significant number of secondary sources on my Conner ancestors. The stories indicated that the Connors, and the Tremblé family they married into, had some prominence during Detroit's early days.



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Detroit 300 Original Settlers Program

If your family has Detroit connections, visit the tricentennial Web site. For information on the Original Settlers of Detroit Tricentennial Certificate program, see the Family Reunion section of the site. It includes a list of surnames of families who were in Detroit during the first 50 years, and whose descendants are eligible for recognition.



www.detroit300.org

*Have you collected
the local records
on family and
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That initial visit made me a convert to genealogy. But it was Burton's manuscript collection that was the real treasure to explore. Regrettably, like most long-time genealogists, my research has been sporadic. Despite uncountable Saturdays spent at the Burton, and at historical collections in nearby Ann Arbor and Lansing, I've delved into only small parts of these valuable caches of primary sources. I'm nowhere near finished reviewing the wealth of material that is or may be relevant to my family history.

Unfortunately for my genealogical research, I am considering a move out of the state. Perhaps my last genealogical hurrah in Michigan will take place this summer, as Detroit celebrates its tricentennial anniversary. Two of my ancestors qualify for recognition under the Detroit 300 Original Settlers program.

Leaving Home

Aside from a brief sojourn to Atlanta, the Detroit metropolitan area has been my home since my undergraduate years in Wisconsin. As I consider leaving the state, it's frustrating to think of all the genealogical opportunities I failed to take advantage of during the many years I have lived here. I've never even been to the Wayne County Register of Deeds to get land records. It's ridiculous that now I'm going to have to spend travel time and money in order to continue my Detroit research.

There are plenty of clichés that express how easy it is to take for granted the things that lie in your own backyard. Have you collected the local records on family and ancestors who lived in or near the area where you currently reside? Have you visited nearby libraries, historical societies, or state

archives lately? Preoccupation with the Internet and distant genealogical resources may be coupled with the assumption that there will always be time to get local records.

But change happens. Although you may not expect to relocate from your present area in the near future, you can't predict what events might alter your plans. If you are lucky enough to be in a place that has records on your ancestors, do something about it. Use your computer to map out a research plan for those locally available resources. Take advantage of the opportunity to collect the data while it's on your doorstep. You never can tell when the tradition of American mobility will take you away from the place you and your ancestors called home. **G**

Candace L. Doriott has served on the board of directors of the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research. The International Society of Family History Writers and Editors has recognized her for her excellence in writing. She can be contacted at cdoriott@earthlink.net.

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